Police, local officials' business cards found in drug lab

Story on PAGE A2

NPA opens shop for poll permits

BAKA MAY EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT!

By Delfin Mallari Jr.
PDI S. Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—With elections still a year away, communist rebels are already itching to cash in on "campaign permits" from candidates.

NPA/A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **PCGG readies auction of stakes in 26 firms** BUSINESS /B1
- **Ombudsman suspends 3 top Napocor execs** ACROSS/A13
- **Mayor, solon's men scuffle** METRO/A23

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Monday, July 14, 2003 ★★★ 76 pages / 7 sections / vol. 18 / no. 216 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Raps vs Danding pushed

Gov't may revive graft case; militants press plunder charges

By Dona Pazzibugan and Gerald G. Lacuarta

BUOYED by its recent victory in the Sandiganbayan, the government wants to revive the graft case against businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. and others for illegally using the coco levy funds to acquire United Coconut Planters Bank.

A militant group does not only want graft but also plunder charges filed against Cojuangco.

"The Department of Justice is in the position to pursue criminal charges against Danding and other members of the coconut levy mafia and deny the entire coco gang room to maneuver, save their loot and launch daring escapes from justice," the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said.

Officials said it would not be easy to revive the graft cases against Cojuangco, now chair of San Miguel Corp.

Commissioner Ruben Carranza of the Presidential Commission on Good Government fears that former Ombudsman Aniano Desierto had dismissed the graft complaint that the PCGG filed against Cojuangco sometime in the 1990s.

"Nobody knows what happened to that," said Carranza, who joined the PCGG in 2001.

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo, who replaced Desierto last October, admits to facing the same dilemma. "*Hindi namin mahanap*

RAPS/A19

Market jitters over SMC downplayed

By Doris C. Dumlao
Business

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government shrugged off market concerns that the Sandiganbayan ruling stripping Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. of control of the coconut levy funds would weigh down on San Miguel Corp.

The ruling forfeited the shares that Cojuangco was claiming in United Coconut Planters Bank, which in turn administers 27 percent of SMC.

"The market should not see this as adverse to SMC because it is clearer now—they know who owns the 27 percent and they know the government will also go after the 20 percent," PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza said.

"They should also know that the government has no intention of holding on to the shares and that once we get the 20 percent, that's the time that we'll dispose of the shares as a block," he said.

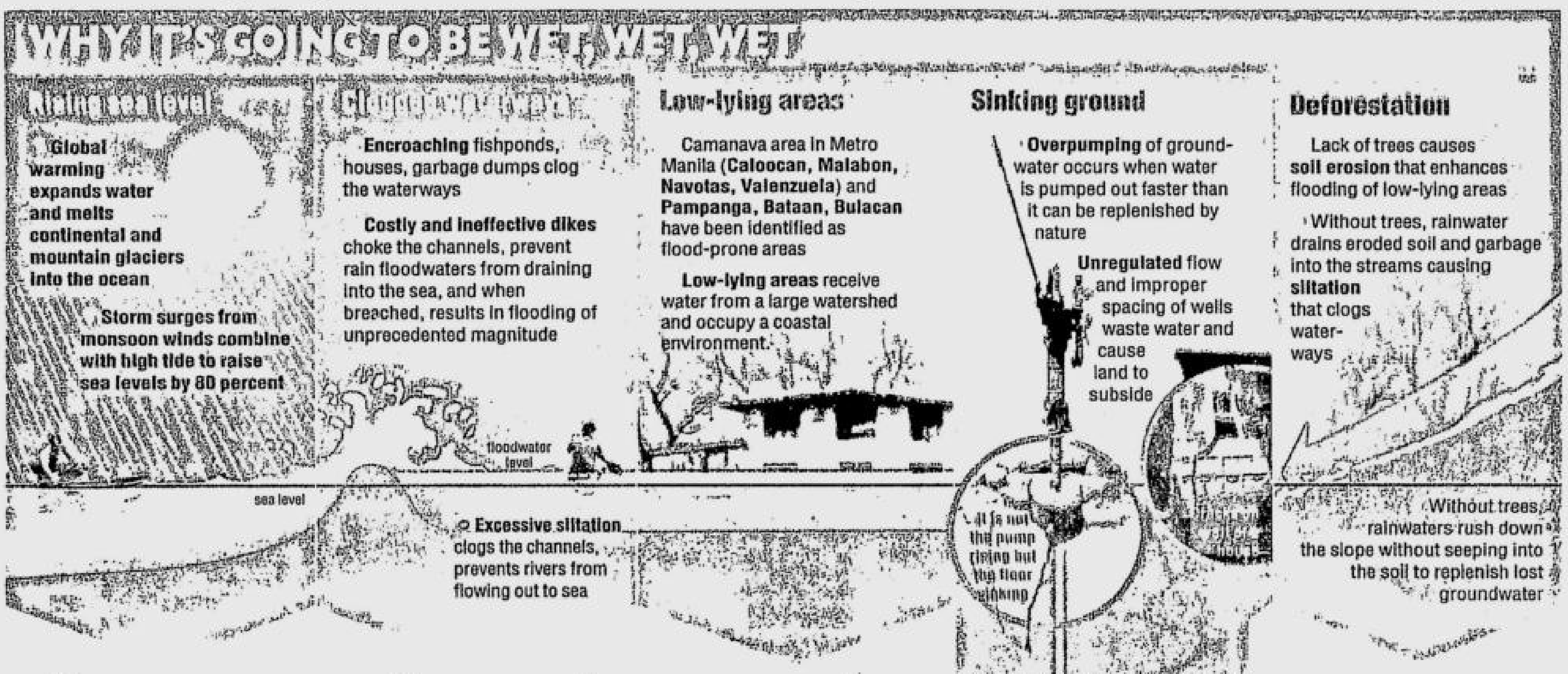
Carranza said the market should not only look at the short-term implications of the ruling. He said the ruling had resolved the ownership issue over the 27-percent stake.

"And this ruling will not only apply to UCPB but to anything ever bought using the coco levy funds," Carranza said.

The Sandiganbayan ruling has sent jitters to the market, which is generally satisfied with how Cojuangco is running the company.

MARKET/A19

WHY IT'S GOING TO BE WET, WET, WET


Rising sea level
Global warming expands water and melts continental and mountain glaciers into the ocean
Storm surges from monsoon winds combine with high tide to raise sea levels by 80 percent
sea level
Encroaching fishponds, houses, garbage dumps clog the waterways
Costly and ineffective dikes choke the channels, prevent rain floodwaters from draining into the sea, and when breached, results in flooding of unprecedented magnitude
floodwater level
Excessive siltation clogs the channels, prevents rivers from flowing out to sea
Low-lying areas
Camanava area in Metro Manila (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela) and Pampanga, Bataan, Bulacan have been identified as flood-prone areas
Low-lying areas receive water from a large watershed and occupy a coastal environment.
Sinking ground
Overpumping of groundwater occurs when water is pumped out faster than it can be replenished by nature
Unregulated flow and improper spacing of wells waste water and cause land to subside
It is not the pump rising but the floor sinking
Subsidence occurs because excessive groundwater extraction causes the sand and gravel aquifer to become compact and lose volume
Deforestation
Lack of trees causes soil erosion that enhances flooding of low-lying areas
Without trees, rainwater drains eroded soil and garbage into the streams causing siltation that clogs waterways
Without trees, rainwaters rush down the slope without seeping into the soil to replenish lost groundwater

INQUIRERGRAPHIC: LYNETT A. VILLARIBA

SOURCE: UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Camanava, 3 provinces reel from 'enhanced flooding'

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

AT 9:29 A.M. today, high tide in Metro Manila is predicted to be at its peak. So if the monsoon dumps rains this morning, given the sorry state of its flood control and water drainage system, the metropolis will be wet, wet, wet.

The expected 1.45-meter rise in sea level is not even a record but just the highest for this year. So, what's new? One can't get wetter than wet.

There is no stopping the steady increase in sea levels every year (no thanks to the greenhouse effect and the earth's heating up for which people are to blame). But if human beings took better care of the planet, or their particular habitat—like the Camanava area in Metro Manila and the nearby provinces—things need not be that bad.

Research by scientists from the University of the Philippines' National Institute of Geological Sciences warns of more floods but less water for use if wrong practices continue and wrong solutions are put in place.

The research, titled "Flooding in Pampanga, Bataan, Bulacan and Camanava: Causes, Trends and Possible Solutions," received funding from UP's Center for Integrative and Development Studies, Oxfam Great Britain-Philippines and the Bureau of Agricultural Research. Dr. Fernando P. Siringan and Dr. Kelvin Rodolfo led the research project.

Frequent, more widespread, higher and long-lasting—that is how the scientists describe the floods that have occurred over the past several decades.

In the case of Camanava (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela) and the three provinces, the UP scientists use the phrase "enhanced flooding," which implies that things need not have been that bad, if only ...

The study says flooding is common in the areas near Manila Bay because of four factors: they are low-lying, have very gentle gradients, receive rainwater from a very large watershed, and occupy a coastal environment. The scientists cite the northern bay area as specially flood-prone "because the same southwest-monsoon winds that bring the

CAMANAVA/A18

Palace: History will judge GMA on US-Iraq war

MALACAÑANG yesterday sought to deflect criticism of President Macapagal-Arroyo's support for the US-led war on Iraq, as a scandal over false US claims about Baghdad's nuclear program grew in Washington.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said officials were prepared to explain to the public the government's stand on the war after Sen. Manuel Villar accused the Macapagal administration of supporting the US invasion that appeared to have no basis.

"What happened in Iraq has already happened and our President decided based on what she had thought was correct," Bunye told local radio. "History will judge this decision."

US President George W. Bush has come under pressure over revelations that his Jan. 28 address to the American people contained false claims that Saddam Hussein's regime sought to buy nuclear material from Africa.

Bush used the allegations, among others, to justify the US-led invasion of Iraq and the toppling of Saddam Hussein.

Villar, chair of the Senate foreign relations committee, was quoted as saying on Saturday that the Macapagal administration should be questioned on why it gave

PALACE/A18

THE CEMPRONS—Mitzie, Minette and Gayle—were among the 10 sets of triplets who attended the 54th birthday party of their "tatay-tatayan," businessman Anthony Dee, in Mabalacat, Pampanga.

TONETTE OREJAS

Happiness comes in threes for Tsinoy surrogate father

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

MABALACAT, Pampanga—A triple treat 10 times over.

Ten sets of triplets turned up for the first time at the Villa Elena here on Thursday to treat their benefactor with kisses, smiles and antics.

Chinese-Filipino businessman Anthony Dee, who plays surrogate father to all the triplets, said the fact that each set was healthy, still together and not given up for adoption was enough reason to make him happy.

"*Malalakas sila at hindi hiwa-hiwalay* (They're healthy and not separated from each other)," Dee said after he treated the children and their parents to lunch on his 54th birthday.

Surrounding their "*tatay-tatayan*" (surrogate father) at a long picnic table by the pool were Melvin Joshua, Marvin Jerome and Michael Justine Garcia; Marie Kate, Marie Kalene and Marie Kayla Lozano; Karl Christian, Francis Gabriel and Christopher Kervin Ramos; Gayle, Mitzie and Minette Cempron; Rosenda, Roxanne and Remela Mendoza; Edelyn Joy, Rommel and Aimee Nucum; Angelo, Alexis and Alexander Cano; and Rachel, Richard and

HAPPINESS/A20

Dream boats of 3 Payatas boys sailing smoothly

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE BOATS of dreams set sail by three Payatas boys on the Pasig River toward Malacañang in 2001 do not appear to have sunk.

Having caught President Macapagal-Arroyo's attention, the paper boats have in fact sailed smoothly and far, according to Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman.

Jayson Banogon, 12, is now a high school freshman at the University of the Philippines Integrated School. He was a grade school salutatorian.

Erwin Dolera, 11, is "Boy Scout of the Year" and "Most Active Student" at the St. Vincent Rolling Hills School in Payatas, Quezon City, where he's now a Grade 6 pupil.

Jomer Pabalan, 12, has rediscovered his enthusiasm to study and now prides himself as being among the more responsible and obedient students at St. Vincent.

Three other children, who wrote their wishes to the President on paper boats, have attained similar personal achieve-

DREAM/A20

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/07/14/03

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Terror, crime on GMA-Howard agenda

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister John Howard will meet today with President Macapagal-Arroyo and senior members of her Cabinet to discuss joint antiterrorist training and regional security threats, and sign an agreement on fighting transnational crime.

Howard and his wife, Janette, arrived last night and were met by Philippine officials led by Vice President Teofisto Guingona.

"A major focus of our discussion will be on practical cooperation to combat terrorism," Howard said in a statement posted by the Australian Embassy in Manila before his arrival.

Only the second Australian leader to visit the country since 1986, Howard is on a weeklong tour of Asia that includes stops in Japan and South Korea.

"The visit will be an opportunity to discuss major international and regional security issues such as North Korea, terrorism and Iraq with these key regional partners," the Australian prime minister said in the statement.

Ms Macapagal and Howard are considered by the United States as key allies in its global war on terrorism. Both were fierce backers of the US-led war on Iraq.

Security aid

Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Ruth Pearce earlier disclosed that Howard would announce a security aid package for the Philippines that would cover the full range of counterterrorism activities, from police work to border and port security.

This apparently includes an anti-transnational crime agreement that Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said Howard would sign in Manila. In the agreement, Ople said, the Australian government would commit to help Philippine law enforcement agencies "build up capabilities in intelligence-gathering and capturing foreign lawless elements."

Pearce said counterterrorism had been "very much a focus of Australia's interaction in the region," since the terrorist attack on the Indonesian resort island of Bali in October 2002 that claimed 202 lives—nearly half of them Australian holiday-makers. The attack was blamed on Islamic militants.

Last March, Australia and the Philippines signed a bilateral memorandum of understanding which provides a framework for increased antiterrorist cooperation.

Howard's Manila agenda would "add some practical flesh to that MOU," Pearce said.

Diplomatic spat

Howard will also reopen the Australian embassy before he leaves tomorrow, mending a diplomatic spat that erupted in November when Australia, Canada and the European Union closed their embassies, citing "specific and credible" terrorist threats which they refused to divulge.

In his statement, Howard also said he would "use the visit to promote commercial links with each of these three countries."

With reports from AFP, AP

VAL HANDUMON

PRIME Minister Howard and his wife, Janette (partly hidden), are welcomed by Vice President Guingona.

Police, local officials' business cards found in drug lab

By Christian V. Esguerra

TWO top police officials and some councilors from Metro Manila could be the protectors of the shabu laboratory discovered on Saturday in Silang, Cavite.

Investigators came up with the possibility after finding the business cards of the policemen and politicians in the drug laboratory found in a rented house in Barangay Cabangaan.

One of the police officials is a superintendent, the other a chief inspector, according to a source privy to the investigation.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the source told the INQUIRER: "The calling cards were signed, with statements asking that assistance be extended to the bearer."

But the source refused to give the officers' names, pending completion of follow-up operations.

"The syndicate could also be using the officials' names without their knowledge," he said. "What we're sure of is that the group has local contacts."

Cavite police swooped down on the single-story three-room house near the boundary of Silang and Tagaytay City two days after an explosion jolted the neighborhood. Villagers reported a small fire and a peculiar stench coming from the house as a result of the blast.

Hours after the Silang raid, Las Piñas City police found around 300 grams of high-grade shabu in a bungalow on Alejandrino Street in BF Resort Subdivision.

Senior Supt. Armando Pineda, city police chief, said the house was rented to Wilson Li, one of the four Chinese nationals arrested in the Silang bust. During interrogation, the four Chinese men had admitted having a shabu lab in Las Piñas.

Police are set to file criminal charges against Li, Leandro Go, Wen Li Chen and Daniel Co, and their Filipino helpers Arnel Villaber and Michael Pagadan.

Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal, Region 4-A director, said the gang's operations covered Metro Manila, Pampanga, Zambales and Laoag City in Ilocos Norte.

"The group is a level one drug syndicate," he told the INQUIRER. "We hope to get its financiers soon."

Rodolfo Caisip, deputy director of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), refused to say if the syndicate was among the 13 foreign drug rings on the PDEA list.

At press time, PNP and PDEA operatives were in Pampanga pursuing leads provided by Li and his companions. *With reports from Fausto Tatad Jr., and Delfin Mallari, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ANOTHER LAS PIÑAS LAB RAIDED

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo inspected last night a second drug laboratory found by Las Piñas City police at 9 p.m. in a warehouse at 277 Impex Compound, Real St., Talon.

Criminal Investigation Division Group chief Charlemagne Alejandrino said the warehouse was owned by a Benito Sy, who will be probed for possible links to the suspects arrested in Silang, Cavite, last Saturday.

Alejandrino said more than 70 boxes of laboratory equipment and ingredients for making shabu were found, although no one was arrested.

Ms Macapagal then rushed to Pampanga from Las Piñas to inspect another drug lab police expected to bust last night.

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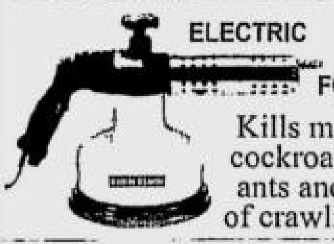

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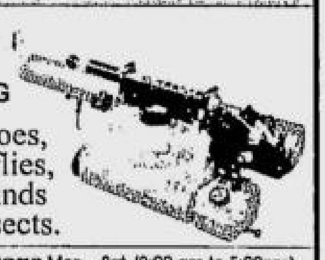

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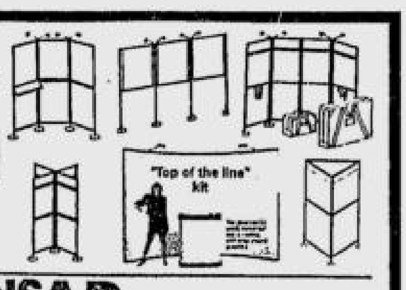

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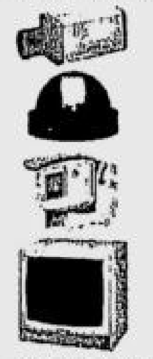

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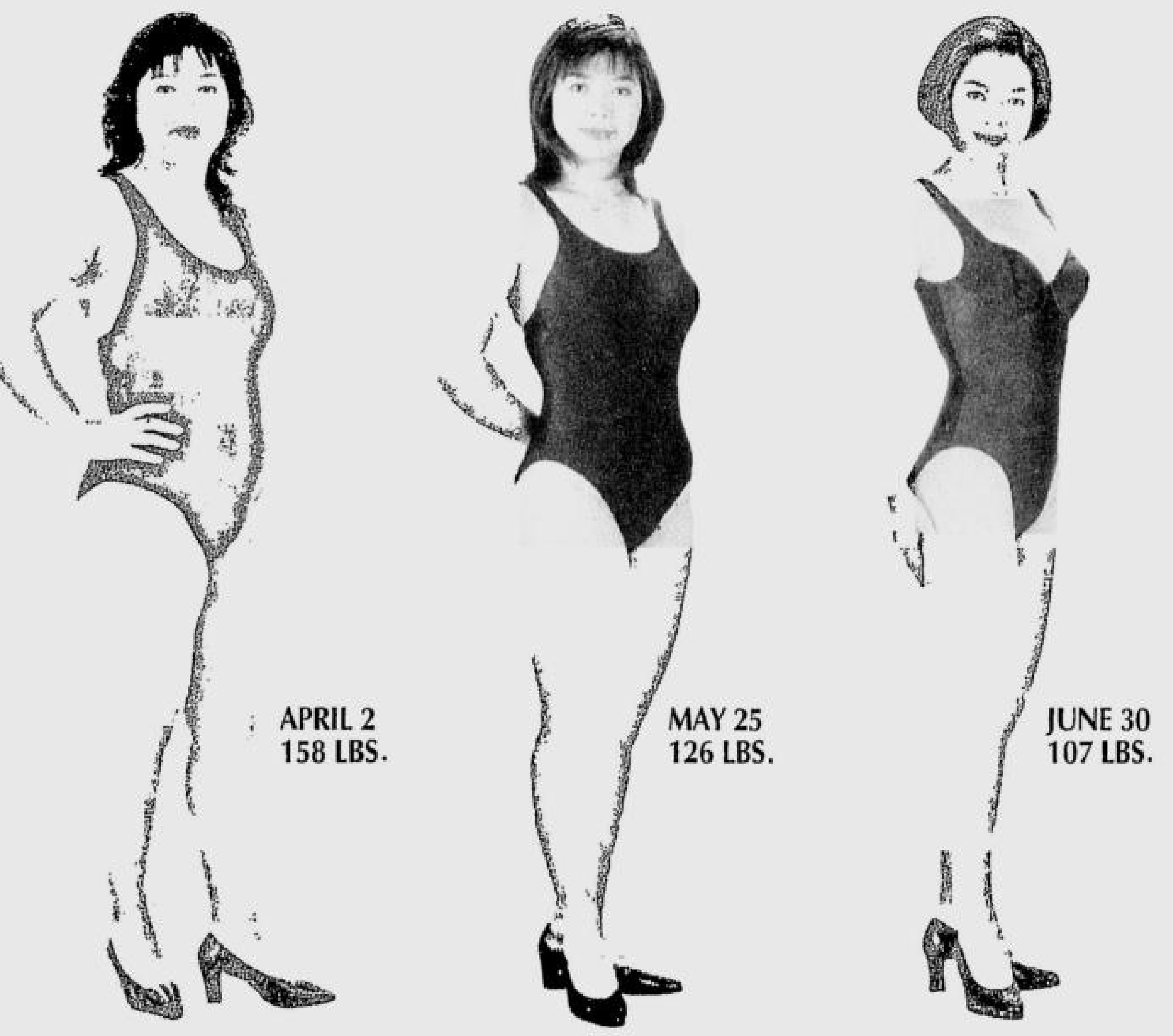

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Cha-cha backers find 'loophole'

By Carlito Pablo and Christine O. Avendaño

LEGISLATIVE proponents of Charter change through a constituent assembly may have an ace up their sleeve at the Senate.

With a decision on the mode of changing the 1987 Constitution due out today and looking less promising for backers of a constituent assembly, Speaker Jose de Venecia and Sen. Edgardo Angara are banking on a little known Senate rule that says any five senators could bring a proposed measure before the plenary even without a recommendation or referral by committee.

De Venecia dredged up the rule over the weekend as the Senate committee on constitutional amendments, revision of codes and laws which Angara chairs meets today to decide on the mode for changing the Charter.

The Senate committee needs a majority of eight votes of its 14 members to pass a mode—be it a constituent assembly, constitutional convention or a referendum to let the voters do the deciding.

De Venecia and Angara both support a constituent assembly comprised of Senate and House members to make changes to the 1987 Constitution.

"Angara pledged the resolution will be brought to the Senate floor whether the eight committee votes are produced or not," De Venecia said in a statement.

Angara said Saturday taking the mode issue directly to the plenary for discussion was "the wiser move if we're really equally divided over the three options."

He said he would initiate the petition, being chair of the committee on constitutional amendments.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said Angara was right when he said five senators could petition the Senate to take the Charter change matter directly to the plenary.

But Drilon told the INQUIRER that "theoretically," a committee needs a quorum to convene and go about its business.

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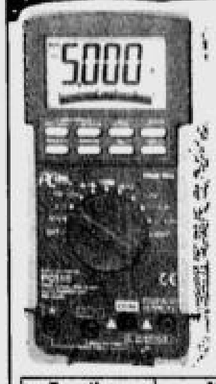

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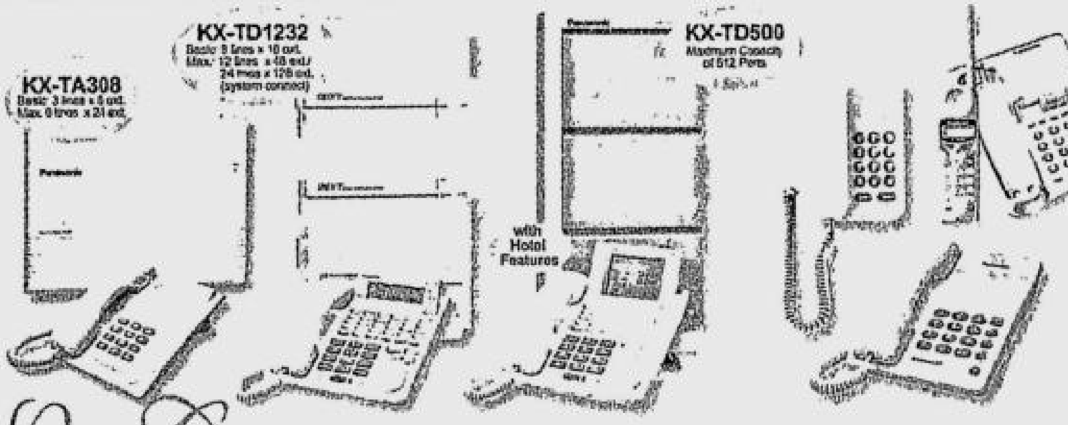

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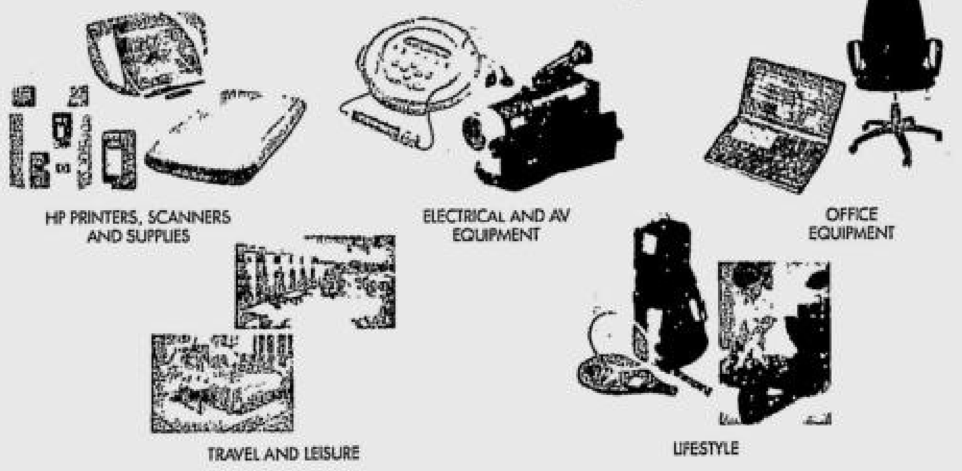
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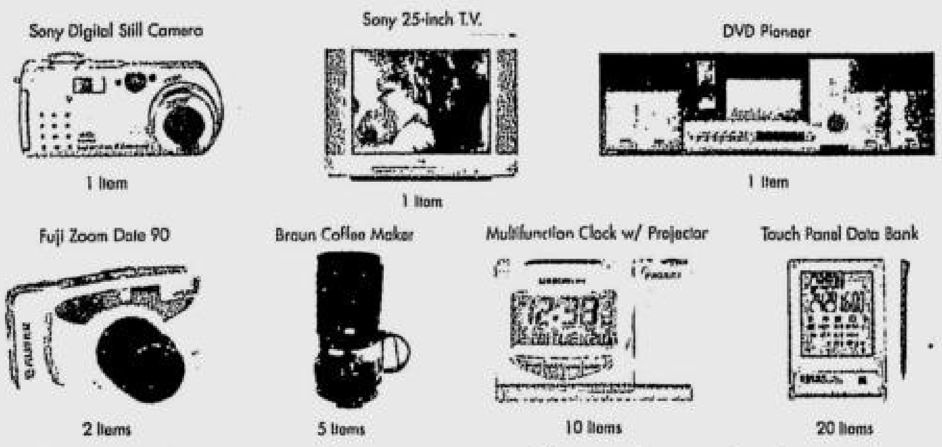

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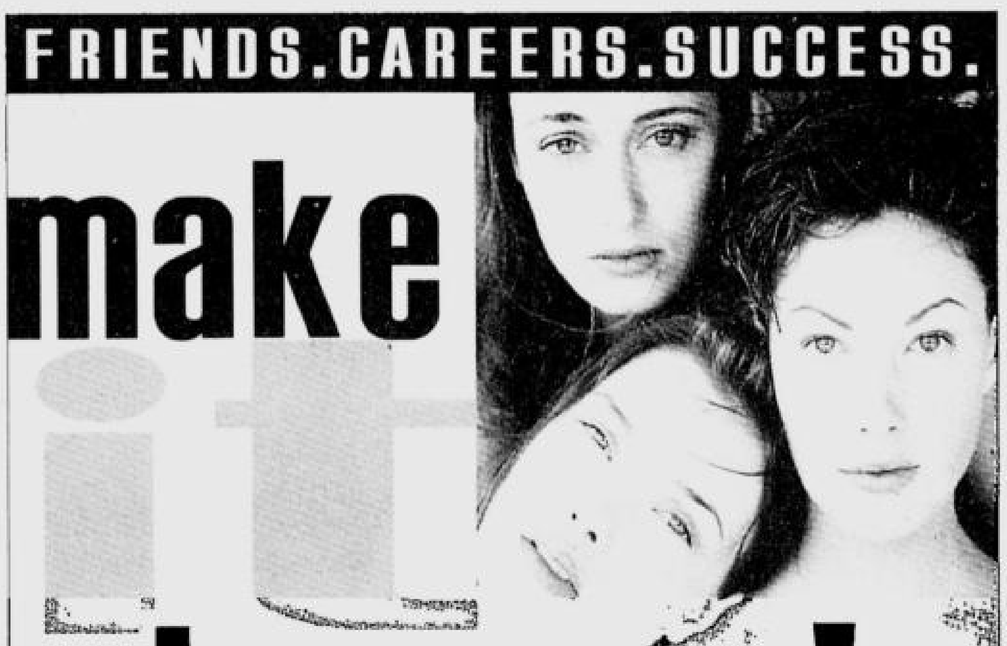

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NPA opens shop for poll permits

From page A1

Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), reminded prospective aspirants for the 2004 polls to contact already the New People's Army in their areas and start negotiating for "permit-to-campaign" (PTC) fees.

"Just be sure that the ones you're talking to are true representatives of the local NPA command. Fake NPA rebels abound during election season," Rosal said in a cellular phone interview.

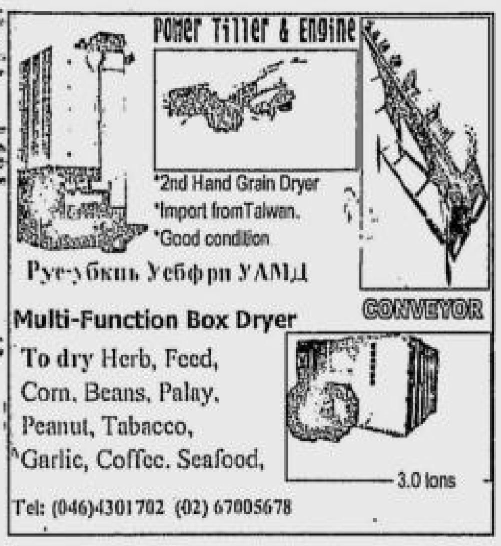
He claimed that no candidates in areas under the influence and control of the NPA would escape payment of the PTC.

"The PTC collection emanates from the legitimate political authority of the revolutionary forces in Red areas. No one can ignore this reality without paying the price," he said. He did not elaborate.

Over the weekend, President Macapagal-Arroyo warned that communist guerrillas would step up collection of "revolutionary taxes" from local officials in time for the 2004 elections.

The President declared that she would launch "comprehensive countermeasures" in different sectors to fight an upsurge in communist rebel attacks in the countryside.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes also revealed intelligence reports showing that apart from collecting PTC fees, the communists' plan for the elections included the "activation of village-based communist organs, solicitations, dispersal of small rebel units for terrorist operations and provision of support for NDF's (National Democratic Front) front organizations."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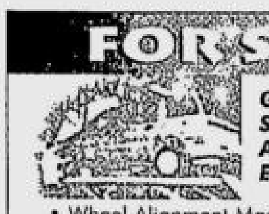
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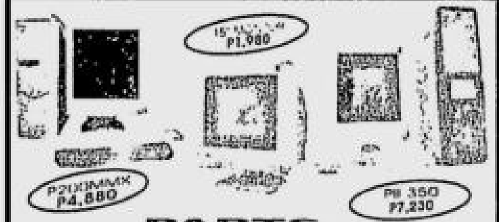
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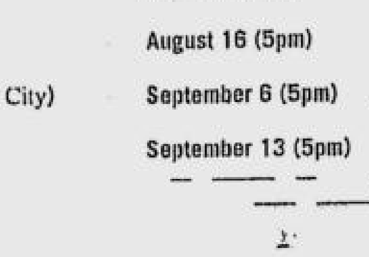
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• Mindanao (Marco Polo Hotel, Davao City)	August 9 (1pm)
• Visayas (Sacred Heart Center, Cebu City)	August 16 (5pm)
• Northern Luzon (Cooyeesan Hotel Plaza, Baguio City)	September 6 (5pm)
• Metro Manila (Music Warehouse, Manila)	September 13 (5pm)

Absentee polls to add 1M voters–Angara

AROUND one million Filipino immigrants abroad will comprise a new voting bloc in the May 2004 elections, now that the Supreme Court has affirmed the constitutionality of the Absentee Voting Law.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said this was his "conservative" estimate, the number that would actually participate in the landmark polls out of the total 3.4 million Filipino immigrants deemed "potentially eligible" to vote under the AVL.

Angara, principal sponsor of the Absentee Voting Bill in the Senate, said he was elated that the Supreme Court upheld the new law last Friday.

The high court ruled that Filipino immigrants could vote in national elections if they promised to come back to the country within three years after registration.

But the high court struck down a provision in the new law as unconstitutional—the one that gives a congressional oversight committee the right to change the law's implementing rules and regulations.

Angara said he wasn't bothered by this "minor" and "peripheral" matter.

He noted that the one million overseas votes would greatly influence the outcome of the senatorial race, specifically those candidates ranking fifth to 13th. He explained: "The difference between numbers 5 and 13 is less than half a million votes."

Describing the new participants as "quality voters," Angara also advised aspirants to Senate seats to sound "senatorial," not like a "local politician."

"Every one of these guys abroad is educated, literate, pioneering," he said, and they would be "interested in the candidates' qualifications and achievements," more than anything else. *Christine O. Avendaño*

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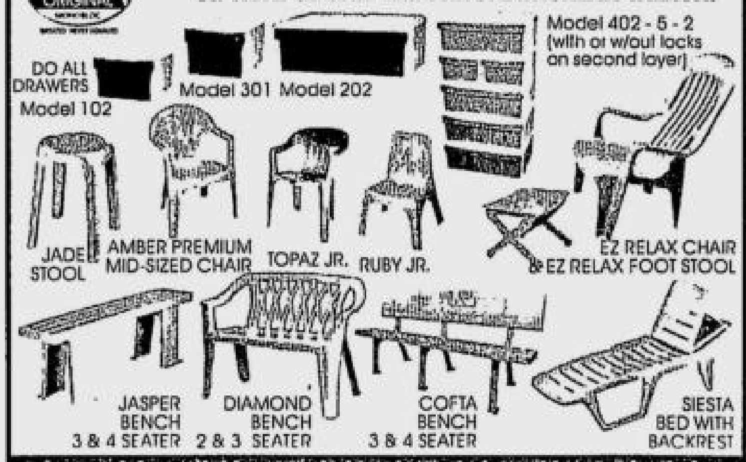
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The clown

EDITORIAL

THE ANTICS of new Estrada lawyer Alan Paguia would be risible, if they were not so dangerous for our democratic experiment. Now the Sandiganbayan is faced with a true dilemma: to return Paguia's unalloyed contempt for the country's courts with a contempt citation of its own, or suffer Paguia's buffoonery in silence.

Paguia stole into the national consciousness by advertising his reductionist understanding of the series of events that was Edsa II in mainstream newspapers. Perhaps we overstate the point; we do not mean to say that he himself paid for the ads. We only mean to say that, after his legal thesis that deposed President Joseph Estrada remains the country's chief executive failed to make it as news, he allowed himself to run it in the papers as an ad.

Perhaps the same people who paid for his ads introduced him to Estrada; perhaps he was preceded by his own reputation. But all of a sudden he was Estrada's counsel of record—relegating the ex-president's highly paid if histrionic lawyers to the shadows, and throwing Estrada's competent de officio counsel into some confusion.

His next move was a stunner: He filed an impeachment case against the majority of the members of the Supreme Court, ostensibly because their appearance at the oath-taking of President Macapagal-Arroyo was participation in a partisan political activity. Actually, the jurisprudence on the distinction between partisan and merely political (or historical) acts has long been settled. But whatever legal points he may have hoped to score vanished when he tried to summon the President, the former Senate President, the Chief Justice and other officials to appear in Estrada's plunder trial.

He had given the game away.

The object of Estrada's legal tactics, he had made clear, was to create impossible demands, and then raise political hell when they were not met.

If there is a gold standard, as it were, in impossible legal demands, it was Paguia's attempt to get the Sandiganbayan to overrule the Supreme Court. Authority in the judiciary is like water, which seeks its own level. It cannot rise higher than the source. The Constitution vests all judicial power in one Supreme Court; the other courts, the Sandiganbayan among them, derive their power from that one source.

To ask the anti-graft court to overrule the high tribunal's unanimous decisions on the legitimacy of the second Macapagal administration was to ask the Sandiganbayan, not only to violate the Constitution, but to repeal a natural law—to rise higher than its source.

The Sandiganbayan listened to Paguia's academic argument with some amusement, and then naturally rejected his motion.

Undeterred, Paguia moved on to the next item in his by-now-transparent populist agenda. He filed a motion in Filipino, and asked that the hearings be conducted in the national language.

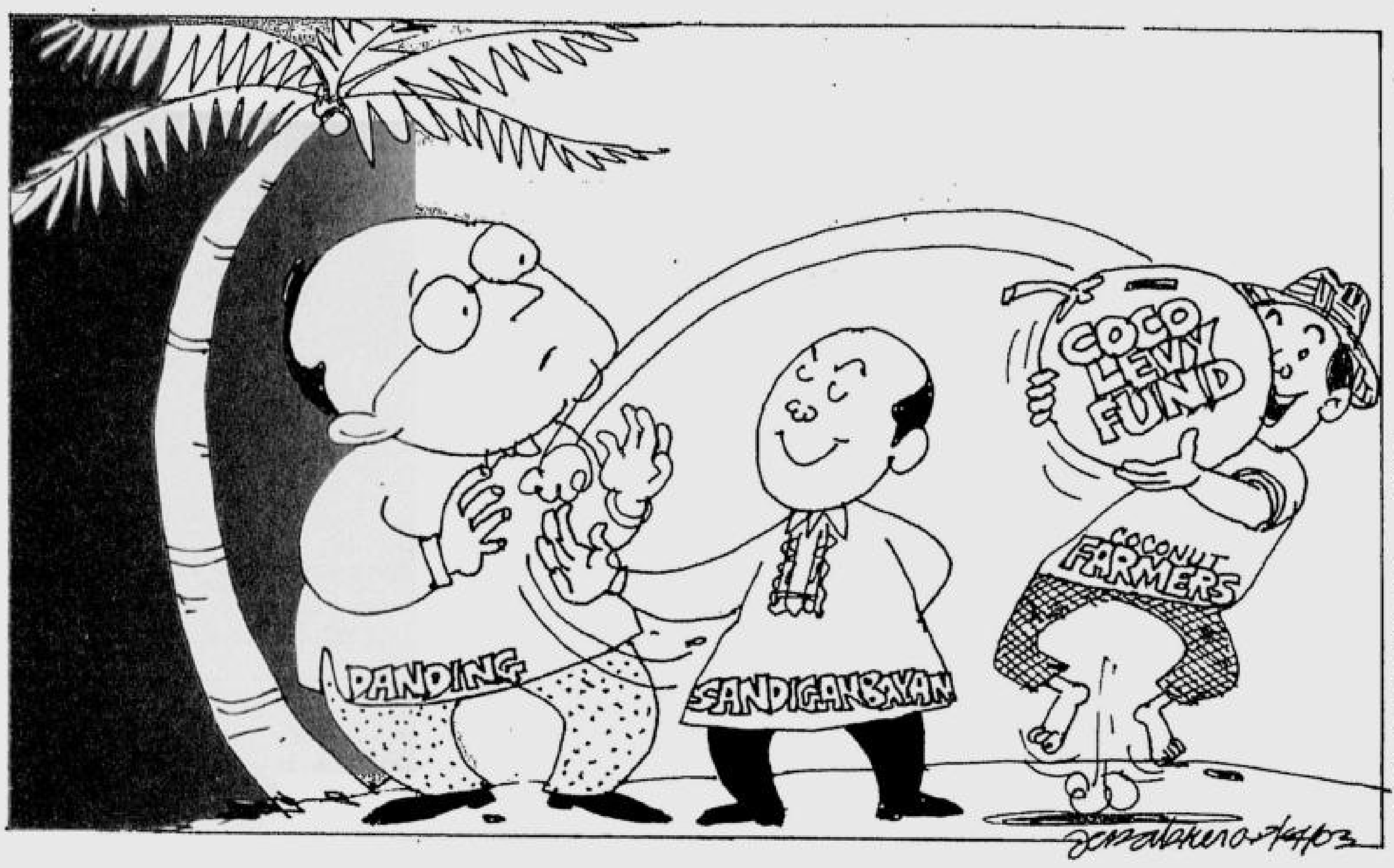
It was in one such hearing that Estrada's new counsel finally succeeded in angering the justices of the anti-graft court. Conceding his failure to convince the judges that they overturn a ruling of the Supreme Court, he asked them instead to include, in their decision, the observation that Supreme Court members had lost their neutrality by attending Ms Macapagal's oath-taking on Jan. 20, 2001.

This moved an exasperated justice to free herself of a choice Filipino expression: *"Ano kami, gago?"* The idiomatic English equivalent is obvious enough: "Do you think we're that stupid?" But like poetry, outbursts like these lose a lot in the translation.

But the expression does capture Paguia's basic game plan: It is to turn the legal proceedings into a circus; if this means treating the anti-graft justices like fools, then so be it.

The clearest indication is also the most chilling: A few days ago, Paguia said that if his client did not get justice from the courts, he and his supporters would take to the streets. For this blatant blackmail, Paguia should be cited for contempt. Indeed, for advocating a course of action that undermines the very rule of law he is supposed to serve, he should be disbarred.

The judiciary should not mistake Paguia's populist agenda for popular support.



Why did it take so long?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE WONDER of it is why it took so long—16 years—to decide the case on the coco levy funds when it is really a simple case. It is what is called an "open-and-shut" case. Shorn of all the legal gobbledygook, any sensible person will conclude that the money belongs to the coconut farmers.

The coco levy was a tax forced on all coconut farmers by the Marcos regime from 1973 to 1982. When a farmer sold his copra, a percentage was taken by the Philippine Coconut Authority (Philcoa). That was the coco levy. The accumulated funds were used by Danding Cojuangco to buy oil mills and 72.2 percent of First United Bank, which became the United Coconut Planters Bank which then bought 27 percent of San Miguel Corp., now Cojuangco's flagship. It is clear that the coco levy is tax money paid by coconut farmers. The justification for the tax was that it was to be used for the development of the coconut industry and help the coconut farmers, now among the poorest of Filipino farmers. Because of the shift of the world's consumers to other sources of vegetable oil, the coco industry has found that collecting the nuts to process into copra is hardly worth the time and effort that requires.

Clearly, the money, being tax money, belongs to the government, and to the farmers who paid them and for whom the taxes collected was ostensibly to be used. Cojuangco only used the money to invest in companies and now the funds have grown to between P100 billion and P150 billion. But that does not give ownership of the funds to him.

In fact, Cojuangco himself said last Tuesday that the coco levy funds were not his but belong to the coconut farmers.

"It's simple. The money is not mine," he told the INQUIRER.

"It belongs to coconut farmers. I have never claimed it."

"...The cases have been going on for 16 years," he added. "I have always thought that justice delayed is justice denied."

The quotes were published in the July 10 issue of the INQUIRER.

But when the Sandiganbayan handed down its long overdue decision last Friday, suddenly Cojuangco and his friends forgot what he said only a few days earlier and said "the timing is very suspicious," implying that it was probably railroaded by Malacañang to torpedo Cojuangco's presidential bid.

"Why suddenly out of the blue, there is a decision and on the eve of a very important national election," said one politician, "so you can question the timing and motivation."

It was not "out of the blue." The people had been clamoring and expecting it for a long time now. In fact, it is six months overdue.

When the Supreme Court declared 19 months ago that the funds were "public in character" and sent the case back to the Sandiganbayan, it ordered the graft court to issue its final decision "within six months." That deadline passed six months ago. And did not Cojuangco himself lament that the case was 16 years old already?

So Cojuangco is in the middle of a campaign to "take the pulse" of the people on his presidential ambition; should the justices have waited for him to finish his consultations and announce his candidacy, then his camp will have even more reason to claim that the decision was issued because of Cojuangco's candidacy. Or should they have waited until Cojuangco became President? Then the coco farmers could kiss their money goodbye.

On the contrary, the decision was long overdue. It was "a bit late," said Sen. Joker Arroyo, "but it was better late than never."

This first decision is like the first olive out of the bottle. After the first, the rest come out easy. So the decisions on the other coco levy cases should come easy for the Sandiganbayan. The losers will most likely appeal to the Supreme Court, but since it was the tribunal itself that had first ruled that the coco levy funds were "public in character," it should not take long for it to confirm the Sandiganbayan decision.

Now comes the hard part. How will the government distribute the funds to the coconut farmers and to whom? How will it develop the coconut industry to improve the lives of the farmers? Mere doles would only waste the funds and won't last very long. To be meaningful, the coco levy funds must be able to develop the industry to give the farmers a decent means of livelihood. How? That's the big question. The government doesn't have yet the answer.

Do you know that although the coconut is called "the tree of life" because all of its parts (from trunk to fruit to leaves) can be used, much of it is just thrown away? Only the coconut meat, which is smoked into copra, and the trunk, which is sawn into coco lumber, are used commercially. The coconut water, which is a sweet refreshing drink and which can be fermented into wine and vinegar, is just thrown away. The coconut shell can be turned into charcoal, which should give the charcoal makers another source instead of cutting down young forest trees. The coconut coir or fiber has many uses. Even coconut dust can be turned into charcoal bricks.

This is the job, to develop the coco industry, of the Philcoa which has been fattening on the coconut industry for decades. But what has it done all these years except collect taxes from the farmers? It had been a very fat, quiet, contented cow doing nothing for decades. And because it has been very quiet, nobody has noticed that it is sleeping on the job.

Differences

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT'S not the sort of thing most of us want to dwell on, or even want to see. That is, or was, the spectacle of the Iranian twins, two women whose heads were fused together from birth. When you look at them, you have the sensation of seeing two people who are leaning far too closely to each other. It's not easy to bring your gaze in their direction, let alone let it linger there. There is a variation to the idea that people do not naturally want to look at the blood-stained face of humanity. That is that people do not naturally want to look at the grotesque face of humanity.

But you will yourself to look and you realize the grotesqueness is only a mask. The Iranian twins were no more and no less people like any one of us, with joys and fears and hopes and dreams just like anyone of us though in circumstances quite unlike anyone of us. I particularly like the stories about how, though they could operate only as one unit, they had very distinct personalities and very strong wills. And how, though they were fused together seemingly forever, they had always longed to go their own ways.

The longing appeared as far back as when they were kids. Like other kids, they were scrappy and playful and often suffered cuts in the rough and tumble. Unlike other kids they could only go where the other did. Once, when they were 8 years old, they tried to walk in different directions. The pain they inflicted on themselves was so intense they cried. As they grew up, they became more distinct: Ladan loved cooking, Laleh loved animals; Ladan became more outgoing, Laleh became more pensive; Ladan wanted to be a lawyer, Laleh wanted to be a journalist.

It was these two brave persons who went under the knife last week in a hospital in Singapore to be separated from each other. Alas, despite a heroic 50-hour effort, the doctors lost them to, well, call it what you will. The religious and secular, the believer and cynic, the cosmic and practical will have different words for it.

I won't delve into the ethical debate. Our editorial last Saturday already did that. All I want to say here is that I was touched by their story, a story that personally reaffirmed a couple of things for me.

The first is that true beauty lies inside, not outside. That seems trite: fairy tales and fables say it, romantic comedies and serious drama say it, literary and counseling books say it. But most people do need reminding of it, the idea registering only in the head and not in the heart. Men more than women: my own experience suggests women are far more capable than men of looking beyond appearances and seeing the heart. Some men are positively hopeless there. But that's another story.

Our own culture helps us to deal with the seemingly outré or abnormal by turning them into objects of hilarity. The Siamese twins have become a staple in many of our comedy routines, along with the *bakla*, the *baluga*, the *pangit*. I'm not saying we may not look at a spectacle like the Iranian twins without humor. I myself laughed out loud at that story about the Iranian twins telling each other the answers to quizzes in class: eventually, the school authorities gave up and gave them a common scholarship. But there is humor and there is humor. I do not see the humor in the kinds of jokes we tend to make about the Siamese and Iranian twins. They lack gentleness.

On separate occasions in the past, I saw a couple of movies that drove home the point about the nature of beauty. One was David Lynch's "Elephant Man," and the other was Jim Sheridan's "My Left Foot." Both are movies, but are based on real-life people, as real-life as the Iranian twins. The "elephant man," called so because he was hideously deformed, was John Merrick, and the man who wrote with his left foot as a result of cerebral palsy, was the poet/painter Christy Brown. Both men showed such depths of sensitivity and creativity to a world full only of brutality and indifference it wasn't very hard to see where the real beauty and ugliness lay.

In "Elephant Man" in particular, photographed in stunning black and white, Lynch dissected the prissy Victorianism of Victorian England, a world full of hypocrisy and caste barriers and alienation. It wasn't very hard to see either who was cut off from the world by more than looks: that was pretty much everyone living in it.

It's good to recall these things when you reel from something seemingly grotesque.

The second thing the Iranian twins reaffirmed for me is the mystery of the human individual. No two sands in the beach are alike, as the Little Prince told us a long time ago. The two most identical of identical twins are different, the two most inseparable of fused twins are separate. I myself am not particularly scared of human cloning if that were possible. Those would still be two separate individuals who just happen to have the same genetic code. The Iranian twins argue so.

It's particularly good to remember this in an age where powerful forces are trying to fuse people's heads together and graft them to a common vein. An age where globalism is imposing homogeneity and stamping out differences. An age where George W. Bush is imposing a unity based on uniformity and not on pluralism. An age where people are forced to agree, to surrender, to think as one. The fusing or conjoining of heads here may not be physical but it is no less real.

It is good to remember amid all this that the human drive is not toward conformity, it is toward independence. It is not toward exalting the unit, it is toward realizing the individual. It is not toward being blank and generic, it is toward being distinct and separate.

It is good to remember that there were two brave young women who died trying to be so.

Worthless scraps of paper coco farmers hold

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SUPPORTERS of Nationalist People's Coalition chair Eduardo Cojuangco are interpreting the recent Sandiganbayan ruling, which declared "illegal" his acquisition of majority shares in the United Coconut Planters Bank, as a "squeeze play" by the administration, just as the NPC chair is in the midst of finalizing political plans. His key strategist, former Sen. Ernesto Maceda, termed the "timing" of the graft court's move "suspicious," opining that Cojuangco will become the "underdog" because of his "persecution." That is what they will want to depict, but the fact is that the ruling is overdue by a year and a half. Besides, it's hard to think of Cojuangco as the "underdog" when you pit him against the impoverished coconut farmers who have long been pining for the benefits due them from the coco levy.

* * *

In December 2001, the Supreme Court, in a ruling penned by Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban, said that the coco levy funds are "prima facie" public funds, and ordered the Sandiganbayan to resolve within six months the ownership of UCPB that was set up with coco levy funds in the Marcos years. In August 2002, the PCGG and then Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo, impatient over its inaction, petitioned the Sandiganbayan for a summary judgment on the UCPB issue. The graft court, however, asked the high tribunal for an extension of six months, which should have ended last December. Thus, last Friday's ruling, was in fact, late by one and a half years, or seven months from the extension, while the coconut farmers have waited for over 20 years for justice.

* * *

The chief of the Sandiganbayan's First Division, who penned Friday's UCPB decision, Justice Teresita Leonardo de Castro, is well-known in court circles for her courage and integrity. A UP College of Law graduate, De Castro was a career official at the Department of Justice and was serving as deputy chief state counsel upon her appointment to the Sandiganbayan by President Ramos. Apparently, that DOJ post has been excellent training ground for appointments to higher office or the courts, and most of them are women. De Castro's successor, Merceditas Gutierrez, became justice undersecretary and while another counsel, Rosalinda Vicente, was just appointed to the Court of Appeals.

* * *

Last month a coconut farmer from Bato, Leyte, Porfirio G. Kuizon, wrote this column to say that "millions of us small coconut farmers are up to now still holding stock certificates of United Coconut Oil Mills Inc. and the UCPB." He attached copies of two certificates that he had held since 1982: one issued by Unicom dated Feb. 15, 1982 for 152 shares of capital stock, which bore the signatures of Cojuangco as Unicom president and Teodoro D. Regala as corporate secretary, and another also dated Feb. 15, 1982, issued by UCPB for 54 shares of capital stock and signed by Cojuangco as UCPB president and Jose C. Concepcion (the Accra lawyer, not JoeCon of Namfrel) as secretary.

* * *

The coco levy was extracted on orders of several Marcos presidential decrees from every copra sale of the coconut farmers over nine years, from 1973 to 1982, and they amounted to P10 billion. The idea was to create a fund to develop the coconut industry. Now, these coco levy funds are estimated to be worth at least P150 billion, for since the '70s, they had been invested by Cojuangco, whom Marcos had placed as fund administrator, in investments such as San Miguel Corp. shares, the UCPB, coconut oil mills and others. The problem, however, is that while the millions of coco farmers have remained dirt poor, with some earning as little as P25 a month, the supposed benefits of the levy funds never trickled down to them. The little scraps of paper such as those Kuizon holds have been worthless to them. On the other hand, where Cojuangco and his group who managed the levy funds were just ordinary wealthy landowners before, but over the years they became mega-billionaires with investments overflowing to Australia and other countries.

* * *

Kuizon now asks, "Are these coco levy certificates worth anything now? If worthless, what can we do to recover their value? Are we automatically stockholders of San Miguel Corp. and other businesses where the coco levy funds have been invested, and therefore entitled to dividends from SMC? Why, in my case, was I issued certificates only once for my many copra sales in those years?"

Those are questions that have reverberated around the country where some four million people are directly dependent on the coconut industry for their life and livelihood. Sadly, many of those farmers have died without seeing any benefits.

* * *

With the Sandiganbayan's recent ruling that the UCPB belongs to the government and not to Cojuangco's group, questions such as Kuizon's have suddenly come to life and perhaps may now be answered with some justice. President Macapagal-Arroyo has pledged that the coco levy funds will be put to use to help improve the lives of the coconut farmers in various ways. Earlier this year, GMA had announced that some P700 million in coco levy funds was to be released from UCPB to help coco farmers in the form of micro finance, support fund, scholarships, etc., but this was stopped by Cojuangco's group in court on the argument that the funds would be "dissipated."

Interestingly, Cojuangco's group never feared the dissipation of funds if they were the ones handling the funds. Coincidentally, PCGG probers discovered that a loan of P700 million was given by the Cojuangco-controlled UCPB to a company called Skysetts, controlled by Cojuangco's longtime associate, Ramon Ang, with questionable bayside reclaimed land as part collateral. The P700 million loan was used to buy a plane to be leased out to an SMC subsidiary for Cojuangco's use.

Cultural terrorism in CDO

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

MADAME President: If this were the war against Iraq, they would already have merited their terrorist labels from you. That would have been enough stimulus to get your anti-terrorism rhetorics and your popularity ratings soaring in the wind again. It might catch your fancy, Ms President, that there are other forms of terrorism today. One such is called cultural terrorism.

This terrorism, Ms President, is not only lurking in our Islands Philippines. It is a worldwide phenomenon, even if many European countries like France and Germany (yes, the usual "sour grapes" to the US-led coalition) have now realized that in fact it can go hand in hand with development.

Word has spread that you will be gracing the city fiesta of Cagayan de Oro this coming Aug. 28. Señor San Agustin would be very pleased. But I think not, even if you would drown him with your shouts of "Viva!" The news has been spread by Mayor Vicente Y. Emano himself that you will be here during the fiesta to cut the ribbon for the new South Diversion Road.

That will be a costly political mistake, Ms President, with or without 2004. The South Diversion Road—which comprises a new mammoth bridge spanning the rapids of the Cagayan River where you enjoyed whitewater rafting last year, and an arterial road that is now almost completely paved—may also be your road to political perdition.

Do not get us wrong, Ms President. Mindanao needs infrastructure. After all, you grew up in nearby Iligan and we are convinced of your familiarity with Mindanao's vast underdevelopment. Cagayan de Oro truly needs this kind of project. With urban management a poor reality in our city, how can traffic jams be made less troublesome for us? Besides, with the new concrete roads will come the business investors. And yes, the tourists.

But pray tell us, Ms President, what tourism sites will they see in Cagayan de Oro? The Huluga Open Site, an archaeological site important not just to Mindanao's heritage but to the entire country as well, is now almost totally leveled. And all because Emano did not follow the recommendation of the Environmental Management Bureau to divert his project and protect the heritage site.

It might interest the President to know that an Environmental Compliance Certificate was awarded even if it did not meet the required Archaeological Impact Assessment and the specific conditions stipulated which included consultations with the National Museum and the Research Institute for Mindanao Culture of the Xavier University. The ECC was awarded on April 22, 2002 by the regional director of the DENR at that time. And here we have not just a violation of the ECC law, but a possible conflict of interest which you might wish to look into. For part of the heritage site where there is the Huluga Caves is titled under the name of a regional government official whose office has the broadest say on the granting of ECCs. That land's valuation is now several millions higher.

We invite the President to come with us to the now damaged Huluga Open Site. We will show her how to do "surface scans." It is an archaeological term which means ocularly scouring an area for possible artifacts. She will not go home to Malacañang empty-handed. Like us, she will likely have her hands full of ancient obsidian glass flakes which our Mindanao Neolithic ancestors used as cutting tools. Shards of ancient Philippine pottery, a spear point possibly of the Metal Age, shards of blue and white Chinese porcelain, perhaps a copper 8 maravedis of Spanish King Carlos IV, minted in Segovia sometime in 1788-1807, are there for the finding if they have not yet been trashed by the city government's interests. You see, the Huluga Open Site was a settlement site that was possibly used continuously from the Stone Age to the Spanish period. The President can check with National Museum director Cora Alvina who is distressed over the destruction. She will tell you that the Huluga Open Site has been coded as X-91-Q2. The presidential legal adviser can tell the President that this means it is automatically conferred the status of "heritage site" and therefore covered by Republic Act 4846, the Cultural Properties Act.

We certainly would not mind seeing her go ballistic, as she did many times in her surprise visits to inept government offices, and finding a matter of serious irregularity. The City Council of Cagayan de Oro had already declared the Huluga area as a "heritage landmark" on Sept. 28, 1999. In fact, the letter of that local legislation wanted the site to be protected with "urgency" from "projected developments." It appears now that the city government of Cagayan de Oro has violated its own legislation. Now, that would not be good for a Strong Republic, would it?

Mindanao development projects such as these can go in tandem with cultural preservation, just as they do in France and Germany. These heritage sites are part of our patrimony and integral to the understanding of Filipino cultural history. But cultural terrorism has rendered these concepts irrelevant.

If only because the President's high office will be used to put a stamp of approval on a cultural desecration, I pray that she will not come to Cagayan de Oro. Not that she is not welcome here, but because part of her official agenda will inadvertently bolster what is clearly a cultural wrong—and other things besides.

* * *

Comments to monta@sni.ph

The Supreme Court takes the Fifth

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

MENACING words from the Supreme Court were brandished at lawyer Alan Paguia last week for asking 12 simple questions in a one-page letter to Chief Justice Hilario Davide. Paguia was "strongly warned, on pain of contempt and disciplinary sanction, to desist from sending, directly or indirectly, the same or other such submissions to this Court or its Members."

It must be a potent set of questions that fits on a single page and elicits such a defensive response from the highest court. Paguia's questions are answerable with a simple yes or no. Each asks for the simple truth about Edsa II, which easy consciences could easily answer, if only the facts and rulings could speak for themselves. But they simply don't.

So, the Supreme Court "takes the Fifth Amendment" and threatens the barrister for asking. Acting en banc, they "...deny the request for the reason that it improperly requests admissions or calls for the rendering of an advisory opinion, and it does so on a subject which the letter writer has by motion, brought before the Sandiganbayan. Hence it is a disguised form of forum shopping."

In other words—Edsa II is a fait accompli, so forget it. The Court refuses to answer the questions on the grounds that certain "admissions" and "opinions" might tend to incriminate them. And how! In the form of a Socratic polemic, Paguia's "12 Questions" tell the story of Edsa II with convincing brevity and precision. It is the story of presidential change shortly after high noon on Saturday, Jan. 20, 2001, when Davide swore in then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as President, in place of Joseph Estrada.

I was there, cheering with the hooting throng. But who knew that the oath-taking happened because the Supreme Court got a letter from the Vice President on that same Saturday morning—a letter they told her to send them—in which she asserts that Erap was "permanently disabled" and she was assuming the presidency on that basis. Would they please, swear her in?

But, in his book, "Reforming the Judiciary," Justice Artemio Panganiban discloses that it was Davide and himself, possibly with Jaime Cardinal Sin's connivance, who suggested the letter so Gloria could assume the presidency—as a resolution of what they saw to be a "dangerous power vacuum." The oath-taking smelled fishy to the world press at the time. But what did they know—Time Magazine, the London Times and all those imperialist pundits? Incredibly, the Court would later rule in Estrada vs Arroyo that the real basis for the presidential change was that Erap had "effectively resigned"—not "permanent disability." In this inconsistency, and Panganiban's undying prose, are conspiracy and dereliction of duty revealed.

Twice blessing Edsa II unanimously, the world honored the Court's credibility and Gloria as legitimate. But in March 2001, when they ruled on the case Estrada vs Arroyo, how could they rule against something they engineered in January? Their culpability, if any, has nothing to do with Erap's own guilt or innocence for plunder. They made their own separate oath to the Constitution. Their duties were different and separate from his. It has nothing to do with Erap and is a separately justiciable matter—whether they upheld the Constitution with cold impartiality, or with all the appearances of its compleat opposite.

It is my personal opinion that Erap Estrada is guilty, as charged, of plunder. But it is also my personal opinion that Hilario Davide is equally guilty and culpable of the highest possible crime of which a justice could be accused—not enforcing the simple, explicit requirements of the Constitution on presidential removal and replacement. That is what democracy carefully breeds Chief Justices for, not mutation into an Old Testament prophet like Isaiah wielding state power.

Soon only Davide, Panganiban and Sin will stand by the preposterous claim that as of noon on Jan. 20, 2001, Estrada was either "permanently disabled" or had "voluntarily resigned." That is simply not true. What is true is that the one true Church led a movement to unseat him. Big-time media hated his guts. Civil society and especially "social" society rejected him. He was abandoned by his Cabinet, the police, military, the rich and by the political establishment. All for probable cause! But at the moment Davide swore Gloria in, Estrada was not dead; he was not permanently, or even temporarily disabled; he had been impeached but not tried—and—convicted. And he most certainly had not voluntarily resigned. Nor had the masses voted him out.

Davide did not enforce the requirements of the Constitution. He had the power to give the Mob victory, and he did, and we were glad. But like Estrada, Davide is liable for questionable acts. If he and Sin short-changed the Constitution in order to get rid of Erap, the harm done goes far beyond Erap.

By inventing "effective resignation," the high court has put Erap's mustachio on the face of the Constitution. Luckily, the justices are not members of the Catholic heresiarchy—who are the only ones that are above the law in this, our monotheistic Philippine republic. They can be impeached. Also, the trial in the Sandiganbayan must end someday and all 12 questions will come to the Supreme Court, properly posed. There, or in the Senate, or at Edsa Next, or next year's elections, we must face the awful truth or forever be on our knees!

* * *

Comments at www.deanjorgebocobo.com

Disputable headline

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

THE FIRST thing that usually catches the readers' attention in a newspaper is the banner. That's the headline on the front page written in bold letters. It gives the readers an idea of what the editors consider the most important news of the day.

Last July 4, the INQUIRER felt the citizenship of President Macapagal-Arroyo's former media adviser, Dante Ang, met that criterion. Thus, the banner that day read "Controversial GMA adviser is an 'alien.'"

The headline drew strong reaction from a reader, with e-mail address at <vencer46@yahoo.com>, who said, "it categorically identified the subject as an alien. Then, in a sudden cowardly turnabout, it says in the subheadline: 'If proven so, Dante Ang faces jail, loss of business.'

"In one breath, your paper is sure, then in the next it's suddenly not sure. And then you pronounce judicial judgment on the guy. What kind of journalism is this? What kind of nonsense is this?

"And in an obvious effort to character-assassinate somebody, your reporter seeks cover behind 'his sources in the Supreme Court and the Department of Justice.' Is this fair, ethical and just? Isn't this a perversion of the very justice that your paper always proclaims it is sworn to defend?

"With this act, the INQUIRER has made itself the accuser, the police, the prosecutor, the judge and the executioner and the annotator all at the same time. Your reporter and editors should be ashamed of themselves."

The editor who prepared the banner in question said it simply reflected the report that, based on information given to the reporter, Ang (whose father was a Chinese) may not have complied with the legal requirements to become a Filipino citizen after he reached majority age. The single quotation marks used on the word 'alien' was meant to alert the readers that the description is a quote from a news source.

Attribution

In other words, the headline should not be interpreted as a "factual declaration" of Ang's citizenship, but a restatement of the gist of the accompanying news report. The subhead indicates that his alleged alien status still has to be proven in the proper proceedings.

Sorry, but I do not find that explanation plausible. In the first place, the headline suffers from a major accuracy flaw—Ang has ceased to be an adviser of President Macapagal. On Nov. 13, 2002, the INQUIRER itself reported that Ang resigned from his post as senior consultant on public relations of the President.

If the headline was meant to echo the statement of the news source, then the single quotation marks should have covered the entire headline, not merely one word, so the readers are put on notice that it should not be taken as a declaration of fact but merely a quote. In past banners based on statements made by news subjects, the INQUIRER underscored their true nature by putting the quotation marks at both ends of the headline.

In lieu of quotation marks, the headline could have been written in such a way that the readers would know beforehand that a lawyer or some unnamed source in the Supreme Court or justice department raised the question about Ang's citizenship.

How about, "Dante Ang citizenship questioned at SC" or "DOJ asked to probe Dante Ang citizenship" or words to that effect? I am sure the newspaper editors are not lacking in imagination in the choice of words that can fit into the limited space of the front page and at the same time catch the readers' attention. They have done that in the past many times.

Unknown sources

Neither do I think the subhead was sufficient to warn the readers that the banner should not be taken as a statement of fact. Subheads tend to be overwhelmed by the bigger or bolder headlines. They are like blind spots. They are there but are seldom noticed. From the headline, the readers' eyes go directly to the accompanying news report to get more details.

On the matter of the use of unnamed sources in that story, I agree with the reader's observation that that wasn't fair or ethical. If the so-called sources were confident about the truth of their accusation against Ang, they should have been man enough to come out in the open and tell it to his face. Answering an anonymous critic is like fighting ghosts, you don't know who they are and where they are. The playing field is not even.

Besides, the documents on which the news report was based are available to the public. The pleading filed by a lawyer before the Supreme Court raising doubts about Ang's citizenship is a matter of public record. So is Ang's birth certificate. Anybody can get copies of those documents from the tribunal or civil registry's office, respectively, by making a formal request and paying the requisite fees. The story could have stood on its own merit even without unnamed sources.

Additional expertise

Going to another subject matter, I received a letter from a reader that seems to imply that reporters and editors have to be more than journalists when they do their work. They also have to be familiar with the jargon of the professional fields they report on.

Here's the letter that illustrates this point. A physician who requested anonymity wrote: "I believe there has been some confusion in the labeling of the late Sen. Rene Cayetano's illness in several articles of the INQUIRER, in particular, the headline in the June 25 issue 'Cayetano dies of stomach cancer.'

"From your accounts, it seems Senator Cayetano died of complications from intra-abdominal cancer arising from liver cancer, not stomach cancer. The confusion may have stemmed from the layman's use of the word 'stomach' to describe what is actually the 'abdomen.' There is actually an organ called stomach, the food pouch at the end of the esophagus. Cancer of the stomach is usually referred to as gastric cancer.

"It is an established fact that chronic hepatitis B may lead to liver cancer, which can eventually metastasize causing widespread intra-abdominal cancer. In any case, I believe 'stomach cancer' is not an accurate term and is an entirely different thing altogether. Maybe you can use 'intra-abdominal cancer' or 'metastatic intra-abdominal cancer,' instead of using 'stomach cancer.'"

Thanks for the information, doctor. No further comment. I'll take your words at their face value and bear them in mind in case a similar illness (hopefully not) hits a news personality and the newspaper reports on it.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

Dialogue could help parallel lines meet

REREADING my commentary titled "Will parallel lines ever meet?" (PDI, 7/11/03) in the light of Sen. Rodolfo G. Biazon's keynote address at the National Academy of Science and Technology Annual Meeting, I would have liked to change a few lines in my piece. In the commentary, written more than a week before the meeting, I noted that Biazon "is no specialist in demography" and that he had publicly supported House Bill 4110—one intention of which is to open the way to abortion.

Listening to the senator's speech, however, I realized that either he has done considerable homework in the area of population and development, or he had some good advisers in preparing his speech—which struck me as very well done. Moreover, he was at pains to insist that he is opposed to abortion and that the Senate bill which he is sponsoring does not promote it.

At this point, I cannot be sure whether the senator in the past did publicly support HB 4110, or whether on the other hand, the two bills were confused in my mind. But I would like to commend him on his speech and on his opposition to abortion, and ask for a copy of his bill.

I trust that this clarification will encourage the dialogue on the issue of family size which has been lacking these 30 years, and that the parallel lines may at last begin to converge.

—JOHN J. CARROLL, S.J.,
Institute on Church
and Social Issues,
Ateneo de Manila University,
Katipunan, Quezon City

Preservation of Samar's resources deserves support

THE CAMPAIGN of the Catholic bishops of the three Samar provinces to protect the environment is worthy of support. Man's utter disregard and open defiance of laws protecting the environment have transformed the world into a dangerous place.

The bishops have expressed their desire to preserve Samar's biologically diverse resources, conserve primary and secondary forests, and protect rare plant and animal species as well as species yet to be found. These are the rich terrestrial resources of Samar Island, the third largest island in the Philippines.

Samar, also has rich aquatic or water-based. resources that are equally worth conserving, protecting and preserving. The marine resources come in the form of diverse species of fish, shellfish and seaweeds. These marine products supply the food needs of neighboring provinces in Region 8.

As a marine biologist from Leyte, I have surveyed and done assessment studies on the marine organisms found in the waters of Samar. My particular interest has been on seaweed species that are of commercial use.

As an economic commodity, seaweeds in Samar and Region 8 promise to be a key to alleviating poverty by providing additional family revenue and food as well as a cheap source of protein, carbohydrates and iodine. The brown seaweed Sargassum, which reaches a height of up to five meters in Northern Samar, could be composted and applied as soil conditioner/fertilizer for agricultural crops like corn and upland rice.

While Mindanao has Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Basilan and Zamboanga, Visayas has Cebu and Bohol, and Luzon has Bicol and Batangas as seaweed farming areas, Samar and Leyte have yet to join the mainstream of seaweed producing provinces.

Indeed, the call of Bishops Jose Palma, Leonardo Medroso and Angel Hobayan to protect the environment and the natural resources of Samar Island, deserve full and unqualified support by all sectors in Region 8. No less than the prompt signing of the Samar Island Natural Park (SINP), identifying Samar as a protected area under the National Integrated Protected Areas System, covering both terrestrial and natural habitats, is in order. The declaration will save Samar's 333,300 hectares of verdant forest land and protect its biologically diverse plant and animal species from degradation and loss.

—PACIENTE A. CORDERO JR.,
executive director III,
National Research Council
of the Philippines, Department
of Science and Technology,
Gen. Santos Avenue, Bicutan,
Taguig, Metro Manila

Fr. Rudy Romano: A hero for our time

ON JULY 11, 1985, Fr. Rosaleo "Rudy" Romano, a Redemptorist priest, Promotion of Church People's Rights leader and Bagong Alyansang Makabayan vice president for Central Visayas, joined the long list of *desaparecidos* in the waning days of the brutal Marcos dictatorship.

To this day, in the face of continuing human rights abuses, political repression and state-sponsored terrorism, Father Rudy, like human rights activists Eden Marcellana, Eddie Gumanoy and many martyrs of the people's movement, lives forever as great inspiration. They who courageously documented and exposed military atrocities and human rights abuses, while also risking to become human rights victims themselves, remain with us in spirit as we carry on the cause of defending the violated and sinned against.

Father Rudy was on his way to visit striking workers in Cebu City when he was abducted by military agents of the Marcos dictatorship. According to witnesses, armed men riding on two motorcycles and a white Ford Cortina with a government license plate, blocked Father Rudy's way at around 3:45 p.m. of that day. One of them was identified as Wilfredo Dagatan, a Military Intelligence Group operative.

Accounts of residents from the area of abduction tallied with the findings of Capt. G. Barias, commanding officer of the 341st Constabulary Company, until he was stopped presumably by higher quarters. Court proceedings never prospered. Witnesses received death threats, with the younger brother of the star witness being killed himself. One of Father Rudy's principal lawyers was harassed and eventually assassinated.

At the time of his abduction, these are the names of the military, intelligence and police authorities assigned in Cebu: General Ecarma, Colonels Panfilo Lacson, Jewel Canson and Fusillero.

Father Rudy lives in the heart of the people's struggle, forever! He was a gift of God to the Church and to the people's movement for liberation, a martyr and hero of our time.

—FR. BENJAMIN ALFORQUE, MSC,
national council member,
Promotion of Church
People's Response,
879 Edsa, Quezon City

Tax deficiency disputed

AN INQUIRER news report last July 9, 2003 said that PSi Technologies is one of 10 business taxpayers that together, owe the Taguig municipal government more than P200 million in tax deficiencies. We dispute this claim and have been in discussions with the Taguig Municipal Government to correct this mistake.

—THELMA G. ORIBELLO,
chief financial officer,
PSi Technologies Inc.,
Electronics Ave., FTI Complex,
Taguig, Metro Manila

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What, enlist the NPA in the anti-drug drive?

I DENOUNCE the press statement made by Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada Jr. of Negros Occidental, supported by Representatives Prospero Nograles Jr. of Davao City and Fredenil Castro of Capiz, asking the New People's Army to join the war on drugs.

The statements made by the three are very irresponsible declarations as they imply recognition of the NPA, which is engaged in illegal and violent activities, as a legitimate organization. It shows their lack of respect for our laws and institutions as they encouraged illegal and violent activities.

The CPP/NPA is aimed at creating chaos in our political system, overthrowing the government and replacing it with its system. The CPP/NPA has existed for three decades and all it did was to worsen the condition of the masses through forced taxation, extortion, exploitation of the youth and summary killings.

Enlisting the NPA in the anti-drug campaign assigns a legitimacy to the rebels that the government should not allow. This will weaken the government's campaign against insurgency.

I hope the legislators are not using their wish to have the NPA join the anti-drug campaign for other ends to the NPA's benefit.

—CATHERINE P. TAWIGAN,
La Trinidad, Benguet

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

Gentlemen:

Quoted hereunder, for your information, is a resolution of the Court En Bank dated 08 July 2003

"A.M. No. 02-11-10-SC. – Re: Rule on Declaration of Absolute Nullity of Void Marriages and Annulment of Voidable Marriages and A.M. No. 02-11-11-SC. – Rule on Legal Separation. – Acting on the letter dated 4 April 2003 of Executive Judge Paterno G. Tiamson, RTC, Branch 69, Binangonan, Rizal, and upon recommendation of the Office of the Court Administrator, the Court Resolved to **AMEND** the provisions on venue in A.M. No. 02-11-10-SC and A.M. No. 02-11-11-SC.

Section 4 of the Rule on Declaration of Absolute Nullity of Void Marriages and Annulment of Voidable Marriages (A.M. No. 02-11-10-SC) is amended as follows:

> "SEC. 4. *Venue.* – The petition shall be filed in the Family Court of the province or city where the petitioner or the respondent has been residing for at least six months prior to the date of filing, or in case of a non-resident respondent, where he may be found in the Philippines, at the election of the petitioner. In stations where no branches of the Regional Trial Court are designated as Family Courts, the cases falling within the jurisdiction of the Family Courts shall be raffled among the branches of the Regional Trial Court within the same station which shall try and decide such cases according to existing issuances."

and Section 2(c) of the Rule on Legal Separation (A.M. No. 02-11-11-SC) is amended as follows:

> "SEC. 2. *Petition.* –
>
> xxx
>
> "(c) *Venue.* – The petition shall be filed in the Family Court of the province or city where the petitioner or the respondent has been residing for at least six months prior to the date of filing, or in case of a non-resident respondent, where he may be found in the Philippines, at the election of the petitioner. In stations where no branches of the Regional Trial Court are designated as Family Courts, the case falling within the jurisdiction of the Family Courts shall be raffled among the branches of the Regional Trial Court within the same station which shall try and decide such cases according to existing issuances."

These amendments shall take effect on 15 August 2003 following the publication of this resolution in a newspaper of general circulation not later than 10 August 2003." Quisumbing, J., on leave. Sandoval-Gutierrez, J., on official leave.

Very truly yours,

LUZVIMINDA D. PUNO
Clerk of Court

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

HK antisubversion bill uncertain

HONG KONG—A leading pro-Beijing lawmaker in Hong Kong said Sunday the future was uncertain for antisubversion legislation put on hold after a massive outpouring of public opposition.

Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-hwa amended and then delayed the planned measure, which would outlaw sedition, treason, subversion and other crimes against the state, after an estimated 500,000 people marched in protest on July 1, the sixth anniversary of the territory's return to China from British colonial rule.

"Now no one knows when the bill can go back to the Legislative Council, or even whether it can go back at all," said legislator Tsang Yok-sing, head of the pro-Beijing Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong.

Tsang was speaking on government-owned radio RTHK.

While Tsang's party fully backed the measure, another pro-government lawmaker, Liberal Party chair James Tien, withdrew his party's crucial votes following the mass protest, effectively thwarting Tung's plan to pass the legislation on July 9 and setting off the biggest political crisis of Tung's tenure.

Tien also resigned from a top government policymaking body.

Beijing last week sent officials to Hong Kong to assess the situation, some of whom took the unusual step of seeking out pro-democracy lawmakers traditionally considered troublemakers.

More than 10 key members of Hong Kong's Democratic Party, including the party's chair Yeung Sum, have been banned from visiting mainland China.

But details of the meetings have been sketchy. The South China Morning Post reported Sunday a Democrat lawmaker met with two "provincial level" officials who asked him about Tung's unpopularity.

"They want to know why so many people are dissatisfied with the Tung administration," said the unidentified legislator, who spoke to the Post on the condition of anonymity.

He was also reportedly asked about the large turnout for the July 1 demonstration and his views on the new Chinese leadership, especially Premier Wen Jiabao.

Wen left a favorable impression on Hong Kong people with his down-to-earth style during a recent visit to attend handover anniversary celebrations, but he left before the July 1 protest got under way.

The Democratic Party's vice chair, legislator Albert Ho, had met with two mainland officials, television station ATV reported Sunday, citing Democrat lawmaker Fred Li.

The report did not provide details of the meeting.

Li and Ho did not immediately return calls from The Associated Press.

Passage of an antisubversion law has been required by Hong Kong's mini-constitution since the territory's return to Chinese rule in 1997. But critics say the proposed bill goes too far and threatens to replace the territory's civil liberties with mainland-style suppression of dissent.

Tung and other government officials have insisted such fears are groundless. *AP*

TUNG Chee-hwa

REUTERS

PEOPLE carry the coffin of one of the formerly conjoined twins in their home town of Lohrasb on Saturday.

AP

Twins buried separately

LOHRASB, Iran—Thousands of mourners wept as Ladan and Laleh Bijani, the formerly conjoined twins, were prayed over by a cleric and then buried in separate graves Saturday, after dying this week during separation surgery.

A note, in Farsi and English, attached to flowers on the coffins read: "Separated, Rest in Peace." One family member fainted during the emotional funeral.

The deaths of the 29-year-old twins, who were joined at the top of their heads, caused sadness around the world, but particularly in their homeland. An estimated 20,000 people arrived for the burial ceremony in the twins' home village, which the girls left at a young age to live in the capital.

Most mourners wore black, though some women were dressed in the long, colorful tribal dresses of the region. They tearfully cried out, "Today is the day of mourning." Others mourned, "Oh! Laleh and Ladan, where are you? The country is in grief."

People came from towns and villages across the region, and a 3-km convoy of vehicles packed the road from nearby Firouzabad to Lohrasb, 1,100 km southwest of Tehran, as the coffins were taken to the burial site.

The sisters had captivated the nation with their bravery and charm, and were admired even in death when it was revealed that they left wills donating all their property to blind children and orphans.

A government official proposed a "National Day of Love" for the twins' Dec. 31 birthday. Rahim Ebadi, head of the National Youth Organization, made the proposal in a letter to President Mohammad Khatami, the English-language Iran Daily reported.

The twins died Tuesday in Singapore, where they underwent a 54-hour operation. They died within 90 minutes of each other after surgeons separated their heads but failed to control bleeding.

Performing the surgery as a marathon procedure felt like "heading into a dark jungle to hunt a hungry tiger with no gun," said Dr. Benjamin Carson, director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Children's Center in Baltimore.

Across Iran, people grieved openly on city streets, halting work and parking their cars to cry when radio and TV interrupted normal programming to announce the news. Khatami also paid tribute to the twins' resolve and patience.

On Thursday, hundreds of mourners paid their respects at Tehran's Grand Mosque in a reception normally reserved for slain soldiers and prominent figures.

In their home village, people placed photos of the twins and placards expressing condolences on lamp posts and buildings. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

200 Nokor missiles

TOKYO—The US government has warned Japan that North Korea has positioned 200 medium-range Rodong missiles to target Japan, a report said Sunday, quoting a foreign ministry official here. Washington had earlier told Tokyo that Pyongyang already possessed small nuclear warheads that could be mounted in ballistic missiles, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun said. The Rodong has an estimated range of 1,300 km, which makes it capable of hitting anywhere in Japan. *AFP*

15 Aceh rebels slain

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia—The military killed 15 rebels, including a commander, and set his hideout ablaze in recent raids in Indonesia's Aceh province, an army spokesperson said Sunday. Soldiers shot and killed Abdur Rahman Adam, a midlevel rebel commander, after burning down the house where he was hiding in northern Aceh in a pre-dawn raid Saturday, Lt. Col. Ahmad Yani Basuki said. Troops also killed 14 other rebels and arrested seven in clashes in other parts of Aceh on Friday and Saturday, he said. *AP*

What rape?

TOKYO—A senior member of Japan's conservative ruling party drew fire Sunday after he reportedly said estimates by some historians that Japanese troops killed 300,000 people in the so-called Rape of Nanking were "a big lie." The reported comments by Takami Eto, leader of the third-largest faction in Prime Minister Koizumi's Liberal Democratic Party, were criticized by China as an attempt to distort history. Historians generally agree that the Japanese Army killed at least 150,000 civilians during its 1937-38 occupation of Nanking. Some put the number as high as 300,000. *AP*

Thai massage king

BANGKOK—A scandal-embroiled Thai massage parlor tycoon warned Sunday that revelations he planned to make this week about bribes he had paid to top police officers would cause shock waves. Chuwit Kamolvisit, who owns six massage parlors, caused a national sensation last week when he claimed that he paid about 12 million baht ($288,000) a month to police to keep them away from his businesses. "When I disclose the names, I can say it will make serious trouble for all metropolitan police," he told reporters, adding that he would make his revelations Wednesday. "But I won't disclose all because I want something to guarantee my safety," he said. *AFP*

Vietnam prostitution

HANOI—Few have taken Vietnam's previous pledges to eradicate prostitution seriously, but new legislation could result in state employees caught with their pants down finding themselves in an unfamiliar and embarrassing position. Under the new decree that came into force on July 1, the names of all civil servants, military and police personnel found to have frequented the services of a lady of the night will be passed on to their superiors for punishment. *AFP*

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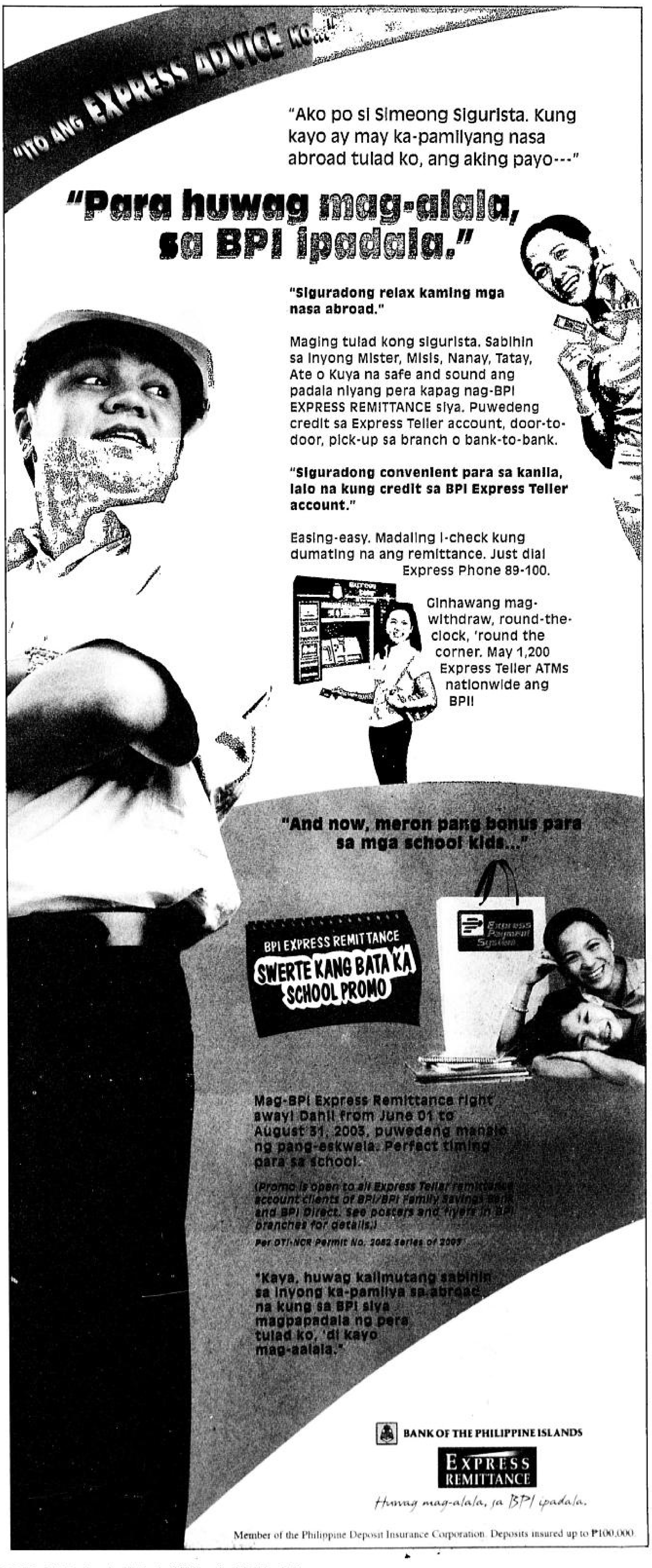

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New council returns measure of control to Iraqis

BAGHDAD—A governing council bringing together prominent Iraqis from all walks of political and religious life met Sunday for the first time, a first step on the nation's path to democracy, US and Iraqi officials said.

The 25-member panel will have real political muscle, with the power to name ministers and approve the 2004 budget, but final control of Iraq still rests with US administrator L. Paul Bremer.

"The launch of the Governing Council will mean that Iraqis play a more central role in running their country," Bremer said in a speech on Iraqi television on Saturday. "It will represent the diversity of Iraq: whether you are Shiite or Sunni, Arab or Kurd, Baghdadi or Basrawi, man or woman, you will see yourself represented in this council."

Pool television pictures showed council members chatting genially around an oval table, covered with green baize, each with a name tag and microphone in front of them. US officials said Sunday afternoon that the council's inaugural meeting lasted for hours, and was still going on Sunday afternoon. The entire council was expected to attend a news conference later in the day.

Security was airtight at the Baghdad convention center, near where the meeting was taking place. Fighter jets flew over the city early Sunday, and helicopters circled the area. Bomb-sniffing dogs were on hand at the convention center, and scores of heavily armed US soldiers kept watch.

The council was expected to hold its meetings in a building that once belonged to Iraq's powerful Military Industrialization Organization, part of a complex where Iraq's rubber-stamp parliament used to meet under Saddam Hussein. The military unit was thought to have overseen Iraq's production of weapons of mass destruction in the 1980s.

The panel was selected after more than two months of consultations. One of its first goals will be to convince the Iraqi people that it represents them, despite the fact they never had a chance to vote on its members. Coalition leaders say an election in Iraq is not yet practical.

The council will have 13 Shiites, five Kurds, five Sunnis, one Christian and one Turkoman—a woman—said Entifadh Qanbar, a spokesperson for Iraqi National Congress leader Ahmed Chalabi. The move is an attempt to reflect the country's diverse demographics. Shiites make up about 60 percent of Iraq's 24 million people, but they have never ruled the country.

Among those believed to be on the panel are Chalabi, Abdel-Aziz al-Hakim, a leader of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution, Massoud Barzani and Jalal Talabani, leaders of the two main Kurdish groups, and former Foreign Minister Adnan Pachachi.

The group, however, is expected to be dominated by lesser known Iraqis who remained in their country during Saddam's 23-year dictatorship.

Qanbar described the council's convening as "a positive step and a historic day for Iraq."

"The United States has no intention of colonizing Iraq and Mr. Bremer has told me personally that he will not intervene and will stay clear from political decisions made by the council," he said. Qanbar said the council members would elect a chair, possibly later Sunday.

In the streets, Iraqis welcomed the move.

"The formation of this council which represents all sectors of Iraqi society is the birth of democracy in the country. It is better than Saddam's government of destruction and dictatorship," said Razzak Abdul-Zahra, a 35-year-old engineer. *AP*

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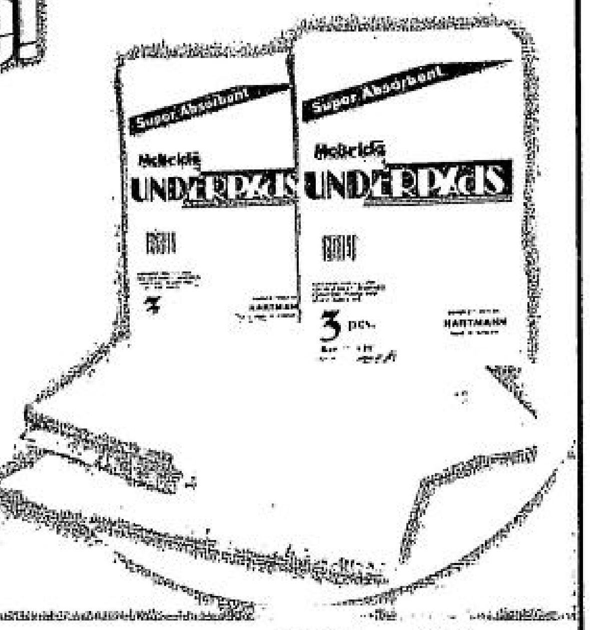

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Monday, July 14, 2003
15th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ex 1:8-14, 22
Gospel: Mt 10:34-11:1

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not think that I have come to establish peace on earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father and daughter against her mother; a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. Each one will have as enemies those of one's own family.

"Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take up his cross and come after me is not worthy of me.

"One who wants to benefit from his life will lose it; one who loses his life for my sake will find it.

"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes him who sent me. The one who welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive the reward of a prophet; the one who welcomes a just man because he is a just man will receive the reward of a just man. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones, because he is a disciple of mine, I assure you, he will not go unrewarded." When Jesus had finished giving his twelve disciples these instructions, he went on from there to teach and to proclaim his message in their towns.

Commentary

Followers of Jesus are in for conflict and making difficult choices. They are to choose Jesus over family members. They are to make sacrifices, at times, even of their own lives. On the other hand, they are prophets and just men, worthy of reception and hospitality offered to such persons. They must be so important that whoever welcomes them are to be equally rewarded with the reward prophets and just men receive! What may that reward be? Is there a greater reward than being able to receive Jesus and the Father who sent him? To be worthy of Jesus and the Father is reward enough. To be prophets in their name and just men because of their grace is dignity and honor greater than any other.

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US forces launch fourth major drive

BALAD, Iraq—American forces killed four suspected pro-Saddam Hussein insurgents and arrested more than 50 people as they launched a fourth major offensive in central Iraq, an operation designed to blunt expected attacks against US soldiers during upcoming holidays that mark major events in the history of Saddam Hussein's Baath Party, military officials said.

The Army's 4th Infantry Division launched operation "Ivy Serpent" Saturday night with a series of raids on suspected pro-Saddam holdouts, instituting aggressive checkpoints and sweeps through illegal weapons markets in the Baqouba and Balad on the Tigris River north of the capital.

"We're going offensive to disrupt potential attacks against us by Baathists and former Fedayeen elements," said Col. David Hogg, a commander of the 4th Infantry's 2nd Brigade.

He said two homes that were used to produce anti-US propaganda materials were seized and that American forces came under rocket-propelled grenade and AK-47 automatic rifle fire in a sweep through seven locations in Diala Province, location of Baqouba.

Hogg said US forces captured three wanted men—a former Fedayeen general, a former Iraqi air force general and the second in-charge of the Baath party in Diala Province. He would not give their names.

Since US President George W. Bush declared major combat over on May 1, 31 US soldiers have been killed by enemy forces and scores have been wounded in a series of hit-and-run mortar, rocket-propelled grenade and small-arms attacks. *AP*

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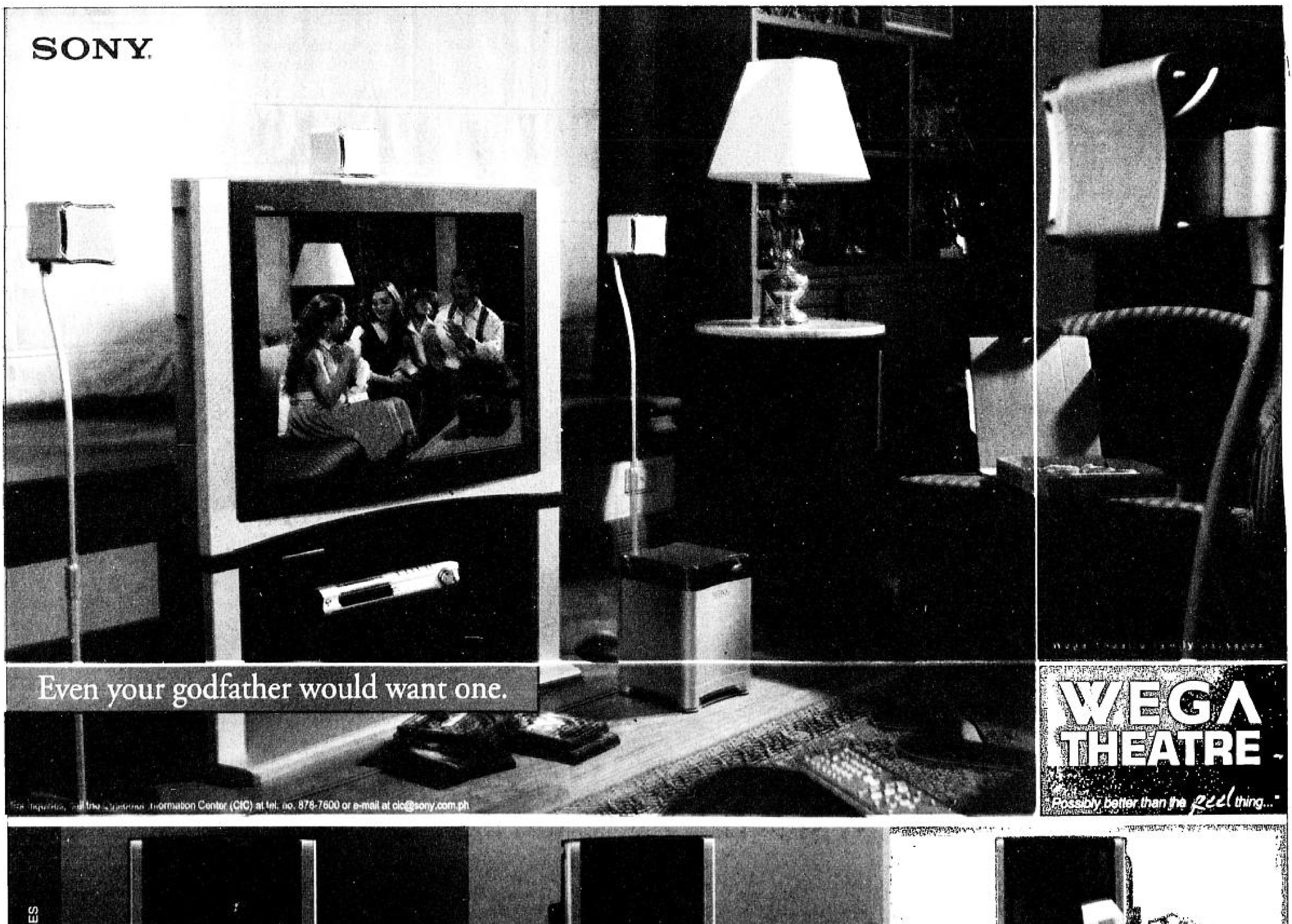
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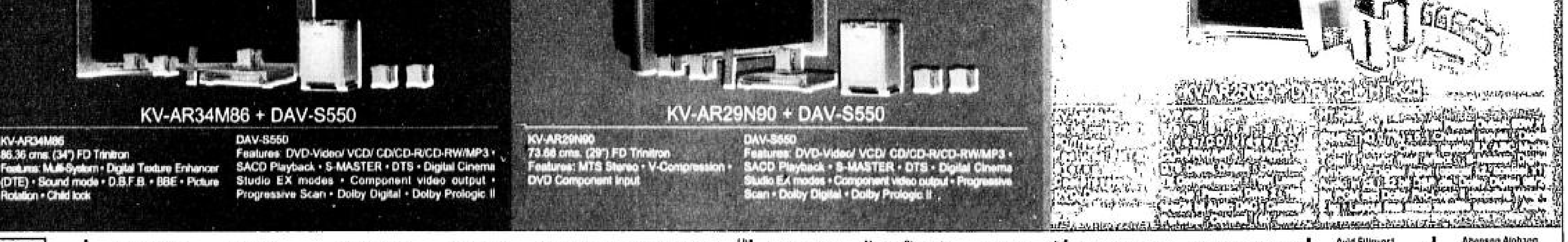

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Ombudsman suspends 3 top Napocor execs

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—The office of the Ombudsman has suspended for two years three top officials of the defunct National Power Corp. for dishonesty and misconduct they committed in 1999.

In two separate decisions, Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo suspended Marcelo Ganaden, former regional manager; Jose Bautista, former division manager; and Ernesto Narciso Jr., principal engineer, then based at the Napocor regional office in Santiago City.

The three officials were recently rehired under the new National Transmission Corp. (Transco). Ganaden was named department manager for Mt. Province while Bautista and Narciso were reappointed as division manager at the Cabanatuan City sub-station and principal engineer at the Transco regional office in Baguio City, respectively.

Their suspension stemmed from two administrative cases filed before the Ombudsman by six former Napocor employees against the three officials for their involvement in anomalous contracts within Napocor.

Ganaden said he had yet to receive a copy of the decisions. "I am wondering why you came to know about (the decision) ahead of us when we were supposed to be the first to know as respondents," he told the INQUIRER.

The office of the Ombudsman said Ganaden and his co-accused conspired to make it appear that private contractors implemented the projects, when it was the Napocor linemen who did the work.

Lawyer Joy Casihan-Dumlao, graft investigator, confirmed that the contractors, Jojo Mateo and Randy de Gracia, lacked the technical and financial capability to construct gantries, beams and steel posts at two Napocor switchyards in Tuguegarao City.

After the project was completed, the officials collected the contract payment, using Mateo and De Gracia as dummies, Dumlao said.

"It could be logically concluded that the respondents were the ones who were enriched by the (irregular transaction)," Dumlao said in two separate decisions.

Besides the administrative cases, the respondents, along with other Napocor employees, are facing criminal charges for graft, which remain pending before the regional trial courts in Isabela and Nueva Vizcaya.

The complainants, on the other hand, were among the more than 8,000 Napocor employees who were terminated and failed to get their reappointments for Transco. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Blast kills boy, injures 8 others

MALUNGON, Sarangani—A 10-year-old boy was killed while eight others, most of them children, sustained varying degrees of injuries when a grenade exploded inside a residence on Saturday.

Supt. Willie Dangane, provincial police chief, identified the fatality as Roland Dalucan, youngest son of Emma Dalucan, the house owner.

Vice Mayor Reynaldo Constantino said two of the eight wounded victims were still in critical condition.

Dangane said the explosion happened at 8:40 p.m. while the victims were watching television inside the Dalucan residence in Purok Cebuano, Barangay Poblacion.

Constantino said he had already directed the Malungon police to get to the bottom of the case.

"Maybe, somebody found and played with the explosive. My men recovered the safety lever inside the Dalucan residence," Dangane said.

He said police recovered the grenade's safety lever inside the Dalucan residence.

He said the recovery of the grenade's safety lever belied the claims made by Emma Dalucan that the grenade was lobbed inside her house.

"She (Emma) told my men during the investigation that somebody tossed the grenade inside her house. But this statement was hardly believable because we recovered the safety lever inside the house, which means the one holding the explosive was right inside the house," Dangane said. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT IS exactly 427 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Bishop named new member of gov't panel of advisers

DAVAO CITY—Malacañang has appointed Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, the newly elected president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), as member of the government's four-man panel of advisers in connection with the forthcoming resumption of the peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Capalla, 69, told reporters he received his appointment from government chief negotiator Eduardo Ermita on Friday.

"We are pleased to inform you that President Macapagal-Arroyo has approved the recommendation of the government peace panel for your membership and involvement in the GRP panel of advisers," Ermita said in the letter faxed to Capalla, a copy of which, was furnished to reporters after the prelate's press conference.

Capalla, who would take over from Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo as CBCP head in December, said he was elated at the government's initiative to let him actively participate in the peace negotiations with the MILF.

"I am accepting the designation. It will enhance my effectiveness as president of the CBCP because I can report to them first hand information (on peace talks)," he said.

Capalla has been in the forefront of efforts to revive the peace negotiations and was among those who actively campaigned for a halt to the military offensives that stalled the talks in the past.

"I always believe that we can achieve peace through dialogue even it is a long and tedious humane way. The problems and issues in Mindanao can't be solved by violence and military solution," he said.

Capalla said his appointment also paved the way for a more active role for the CBCP as far as the peace process was concerned.

Capalla is also a co-convenor of the Bishops-Ulama Conference. *Anthony S. Allada and Dennis Jay C. Santos PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Security, insurance, killings among Iloilo journalists' concerns

Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The difference is whether they are prepared or not, but not a few Iloilo journalists said they are willing to die in the line of duty.

Speaking before civic and religious leaders, teachers and members of nongovernment organizations, local journalists said they accept killings and threats as hazards of their profession. But while some easily accept death's inevitability, others said they are worried because they have no security benefits and insurance to leave behind for their families.

The meeting held July 12 between journalists and community leaders was the second of the national series titled "Silencing Journalists, Suppressing the Truth: A Dialogue on the Citizens' Right To Know."

Sponsored by the Center for Community Journalism and Development (CCJD), the meeting examined the implications of journalists' killings on people's access to information and looked for ways to prevent the killings, said Red Batario of the CCJD.

"I'm prepared to die," said Rene Porras of the Iloilo Post and Talking Point, a cable television talk show.

Careful

But Rex Hidalgo, editor of the News Express, said that after the death of his friend, Joseph Nava of the Visayan Life Today in October 1988, he tried to be careful in his reportage and would think twice before publishing stories about corruption. "We have to live longer to tell the truth," he said.

Many senior reporters said they have gotten used to threats and harassments and don't discount the possibility of being killed due to their exposés. But the younger ones like Nanette Guadalquiver, editor of Sun.Star Iloilo, said that if the risk is such, she might as well switch professions because no story is worth her life.

Iloilo had its share of killings of journalists but the last one took place 14 years ago when Severino Arcones of DyFM Bombo Radyo was gunned down. He and another local reporter, Eddie Suede, were also assassinated. Their killings have remained unsolved to this day.

Further discussions

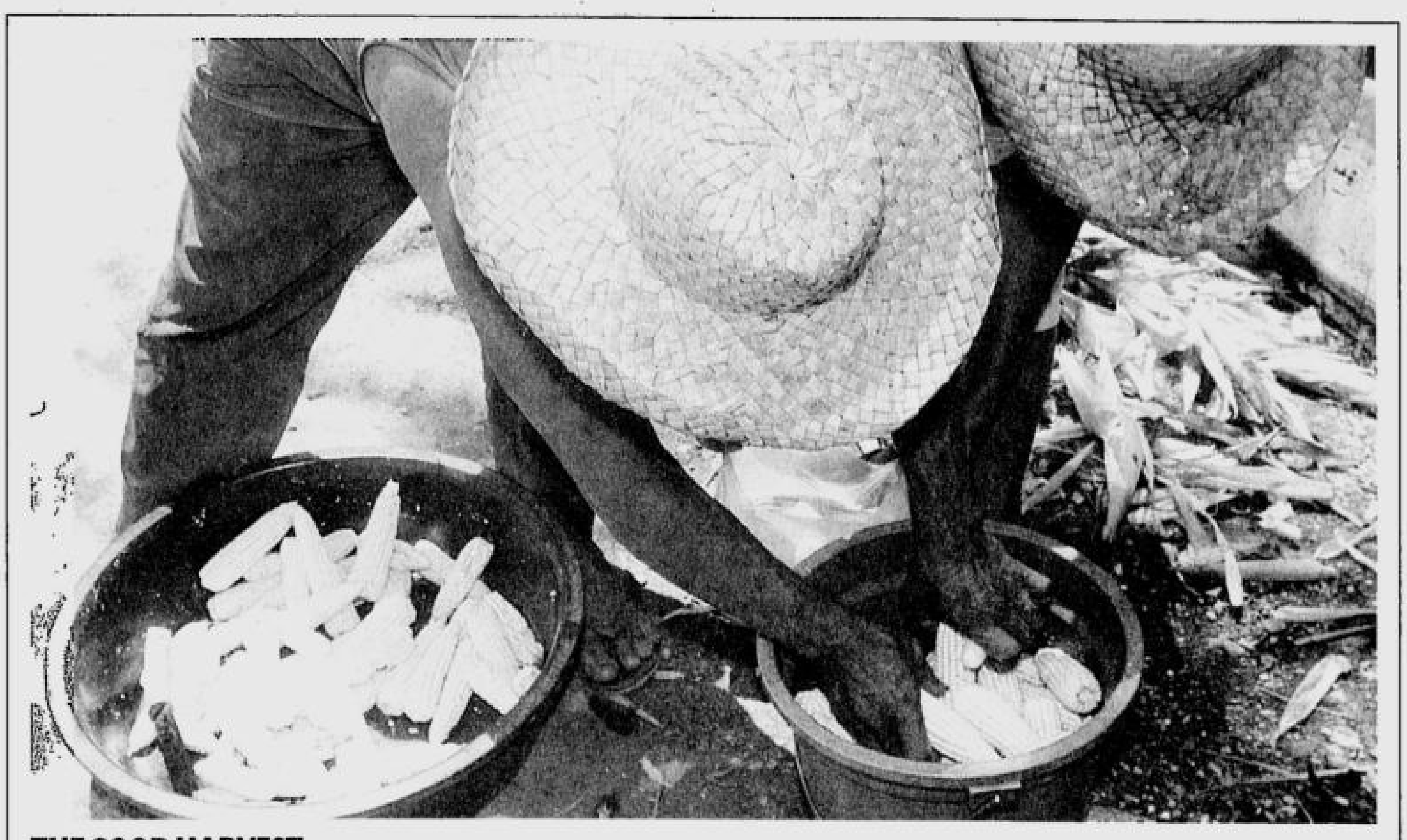
A committee was formed by representatives from the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), Philippine Information Agency, Iloilo Legal Assistance Center, Panay-Alliance-Karapatan and Iloilo Press Club to conduct discussions on human rights and journalists' code of ethics.

The discussions would touch on the rights and responsibilities of journalists, said Chris Montano of the CHR regional office. He said the committee also plans to gather the publishers, owners and managers of broadcast stations to sign a covenant to promote the observance of the Journalists Code of Ethics.

Eduardo Jalbuena, president of the Iloilo Press Club and publisher of The Visayas Examiner, said his group plans to meet with candidates in 2004 elections to discuss ground rules for ethical coverage.

A total of 53 journalists have been killed since 1961, data from the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility shows. The latest journalist to be put in the roster is Bonifacio Gregorio, who was gunned down in La Paz, Tarlac on July 8. He wrote a column for the weekly Dyaryo Banat.

Of the killings, only two resulted in prosecution, conviction and imprisonment—the Ermin Garcia Sr. and Antonio Abad Tormis cases.



THE GOOD HARVEST
Farmers of Barangay Curuan, Zamboanga City sort out the corn which they hope to sell in the market. The crop is the staple food of most Zamboangueños.
REUTERS

Judge orders arrest of mayor, 7 officials for electioneering

By Gerry T. Pagharion
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—A regional trial court judge in Capiz ordered the arrest of the mayor of Panitan town, his vice mayor and six councilors after he found probable cause to hold them for trial for allegedly engaging in electioneering activities in the May 11, 2001 elections.

Judge Charlito Fantilanan, in an order dated July 3, ordered the arrest of Mayor Roberto Albana, Vice Mayor Katherine Dequina and Councilors Generoso Derramas, Ricardo Araque, Lilia Datiles, Merlinda Degala, Ernesto Bito-on and Juvic Deslate. They all ran and won in the May 11, 2001 elections under the Liberal Party banner.

Their two other party mates, Vicente Duran and Gabriel Aranas, who lost in the municipal councilors' race, were also ordered arrested.

They all posted bail of P12,000 each for their provisional liberty.

The arrest order stemmed from the criminal case filed by defeated mayoral candidate PJ Belo who claimed that the conduct of the 2001 elections in Panitan were marred with irregularities.

Belo, who ran under the United Opposition Coalition, is the nephew of former assemblyman Enrique Belo and son of former Capiz Vice Gov. Matilde Belo.

The Belos considered Panitan town their political bailiwick.

Despite this, however, Albana trounced PJ Belo by more than a thousand votes. Albana and his party mates were supported by the powerful Roxas clan of Capiz.

PJ, in a criminal complaint filed against Albana and others shortly after the elections, claimed his opponents violated the Omnibus Elections Code, which calls for the holding of clean, honest, peaceful and orderly elections.

Specifically, the accused were charged for an incident three days before the elections where Albana and his party mates distributed "bags of goods" containing rice, sugar, eggs, sardines and noodles to residents of Barangay Agloloway, allegedly "to induce them to vote for their candidacies or withhold their votes in the election . . ."

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Top Lucena drug pusher arrested

LUCENA CITY—Police arrested the alleged top drug pusher in the city and his associate in simultaneous raids and confiscated an undetermined volume of shabu and at least P150,000 from them.

Supt. Concordio Tapulayan, Lucena police officer in charge, identified the arrested suspects as Rizaldy Rayos, 35, and Allan Ahito, 30, both of Purok Damayan, Ibabang Iyam.

A third suspect, Ruel Pabellano, did not show up in his house the night before the raid.

Tapulayan said that based on an initial report, at least six grams of shabu were seized from the suspects. But there could be more as the search was still going on in the vicinity, he said.

Police files show that Rayos was listed as the No. 1 illegal drug trader in the city, while Ahito and Pabellano were among his trusted lieutenants in the drug network.

The raiding team found a .45 cal. Colt revolver, a .22 cal. homemade revolver, a .38 cal. homemade revolver, a 12" shotgun, several magazines and rounds of ammunitions, illegal drugs paraphernalia, and a weighing scale.

Senior Insp. Ernesto Ginauli, intelligence section chief, said the suspects were connected to a Laguna-based drug ring.

Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr. congratulated the police. He said the suspect had long been destroying the future of the youths with his illegal drug trade. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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ROUNDUP

Quake shakes Negros

BACOLOD CITY—A mild earthquake hit parts of Negros, Panay, Cebu and Zamboanga at 9:53 p.m. Friday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said. The tremor was tectonic in origin and believed to be caused by a possible fault in the Negros trench west of Dumaguete City in Negros Oriental, a Phivolcs bulletin said. Aftershocks are expected, according to Ben Tanatan of Phivolcs. In Bacolod City, buildings shook slightly for more than 15 seconds but no damage to property was reported. The tremor, felt in the cities of Bacolod and La Carlota and the town of Pontevedra, Negros Occidental and along the Mambukal Nature Park, was placed at Intensity 1 on the Richter scale, while that in the towns of Sipalay and Ilog was placed at Intensity 4.

Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Charges vs ex-bodyguard

CATARMAN, Northern Samar—Gov. Raul A. Daza has filed charges of qualified theft against a former bodyguard who stole cash and bullets from his residence last April. Judy Daboy Calagos, a Capitol employee assigned as Daza's guard, was accused of stealing P24,600 in cash and a box of live .45 cal. bullets kept at dresser beside the governor's bed sometime between April 15 and 27. Municipal Circuit Trial Court Judge Jose Ocenar has issued an arrest warrant, with a bail bond of P40,000, against Calagos.

Marc Villavicencio, PDI Visayas Bureau

Contractor stopped

SIBULAN, Negros Oriental—The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) has issued a cease-and-desist order against the contractor of a barge landing facility for failure to secure a permit to construct the facility. But Sibulan Mayor Antonio Renacia objected to the PPA order issued Wednesday as the P5-million project is a joint undertaking of the municipal government and the construction firm owned by the Cebu-based Ouaño family through the build-operate-transfer scheme. He said the municipality and the Ouaño group had been applying for the permit to construct but they were given a run-around by the PPA.

Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau

Guard mauls policeman

BACOLOD CITY—A policeman has asked the Negros Occidental Police Office to investigate a bodyguard of Mayor Oscar Montilla of Sipalay town, who allegedly mauled him on July 4. SPO3 Francisco Esclavia said Bartol Rasaga, a civilian bodyguard of Montilla, was allegedly armed with an Uzi pistol and was drunk when he mauled and then pistol-whipped him for unknown reasons. The incident, he added, were witnessed by the mayor's three security guards, who he claimed were also armed with automatic assault rifles such as Galil and M-14, as well as an Uzi machine pistol. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Court acquits boy

DUMAGUETE CITY—The regional trial court has acquitted a boy who electrocuted his abusive father in 1999 because he was a minor at the time of the killing. RTC Branch 40 Judge Araceli S.Alafriz ruled that the boy, who was only 12 years old when he killed his father, is "exempt from criminal liability" even while he might have committed parricide. Under Article 12 of the Revised Penal Code, a person below 15 years old is "exempt from criminal liability unless he acted with discernment." On April 10, 1999, the boy, then a fifth grader from a local public school, electrocuted his father Antonio, 45, a passenger bicycle driver, while he was sleeping in their home in Barangay Daro. He claimed he could no longer stand the physical abuse from his father, who, he said, had also threatened to kill him, his mother Liza, 43, and sisters Janette 10, and Eliza, 15.

Alex V. Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau

Condone loans, co-op pleads

BACOLOD CITY—Two electric cooperatives in Negros Occidental have asked the provincial government to condone loans totaling P106.7 million. The Negros Occidental Electric Cooperative (NOEC) and the Victorias-Manapla-Cadiz Rural Electric Service Cooperative (VMCRESC) wanted their loans condoned in line with the provision of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira), which provides that the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. assumes all outstanding loans of electric co-ops to the National Electrification Administration and other government agencies arising from their rural electrification programs. Records showed the NOEC owed the province P86.542 million while the VMCRESC had a loan totaling P20.2 million. The loans were provided to the electric cooperatives for electrification projects in remote rural areas.

Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

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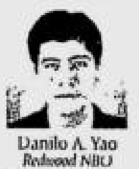
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Eucalyptus NBO
1st time qualifier

Nerisa L. Villegas
Osmanthus NBO
1st time qualifier

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Cypress NBO
1st time qualifier

Maria Belencita B. Ng
Luzon Sales Offices
1st time qualifier

Samuel P. Antasuda
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Birch NBO
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Francis G. Tan
Osmanthus NBO
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Corazon P. Uy, *Maple NBO (14th time qualifier)*
Arabella V. Borromeo, *Cedar NBO (13th time qualifier)*
Ester S. Chan**, *Osmanthus NBO (12th time qualifier)*
Angelina C. Tan, *Molave NBO (12th time qualifier)*
Nenette N. Aseniero, *Linden NBO (12th time qualifier)*
Irene K. Lu*, *Maple NBO (11th time qualifier)*
Ma. Paz Emilia B. Tubelleja**, *Mulawin NBO (11th time qualifier)*
Rosita R. Go, *Sequoia NBO (10th time qualifier)*
Lorna J. Chikiamco, *Cedar NBO (9th time qualifier)*
Carmelita R. Marasigan, *Mulawin NBO (9th time qualifier)*
Jocelyn A. Del Rosario, *Acacia NBO (8th time qualifier)*
Lucia U. Margaja**, *Acacia NBO (7th time qualifier)*
Melinda S. Bayona, *Tindalo NBO (7th time qualifier)*
Ma. Lourdes P. Perez, *Chestnut NBO (7th time qualifier)*
Corazon D. Mina, *Mulawin NBO (7th time qualifier)*
Aida C. Tan-Chan*, *Aspen NBO (6th time qualifier)*
Lilian H. Go, *Tindalo NBO (6th time qualifier)*
Efren E. Andrey, *Linden NBO (5th time qualifier)*
Jocelyn Y. Ubalde**, *Jacaranda NBO (5th time qualifier)*
Virginia S. Sun, *Sequoia NBO (5th time qualifier)*
Ma. Teresa I. Briones**, *Tindalo NBO (5th time qualifier)*
Ma Theresa B. Manimtim, *Chestnut NBO (5th time qualifier)*
Jocelyn A. Barron, *Tindalo NBO (5th time qualifier)*
Gerardo B. Punsal, *Eucalyptus NBO (4th time qualifier)*
Adelaida R. Camus, *Mulawin NBO (4th time qualifier)*
Estrella C. Masigan, *Linden NBO (4th time qualifier)*
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Ma. Socorro Julieta S. Aguilar, *Molave NBO (4th time qualifier)*
Teresita S. Miralles**, *Mulawin NBO (4th time qualifier)*
Ma. Victoria C. Vizcarra, *Linden NBO (4th time qualifier)*
Shirley S. Tan*, *Molave NBO (4th time qualifier)*
Rosemarie E. Villanueva, *Acacia NBO (4th time qualifier)*
Ramil H. Gandola**, *Mulawin NBO (4th time qualifier)*
Erlinda Agnes S. Punsalan, *Molave NBO (4th time qualifier)*
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Camanava, 3 provinces reel from 'enhanced flooding'

From page A1

annual rains also pile up sea water against the north bay shore." They add that so-called storm surges can raise high tide levels by 80 percent, thus preventing rain floodwaters from emptying into the bay.

But in the case of Pampanga and Bulacan, the scientists have made new observations. Some areas there are less waterlogged (not prone to retaining floodwaters) because of the 1991 Mt. Pinatubo eruptions and the resulting sedimentation, especially at the Porac-Gumain fan and delta.

In Bulacan, urbanization had reduced waterlogged areas. But new waterlogged areas have appeared in Pampanga.

While siltation from the Pinatubo debris is commonly blamed for the worsening flooding in Pampanga, the same cannot be blamed for the new flooding trend in Bulacan and Camanava, which do not get Pinatubo sediment. The researchers point out that even before the volcanic eruption, flooding in coastal Pampanga had already worsened.

Encroaching fishponds and houses, wrong garbage disposal and siltation resulting from deforestation and consequent erosion also contribute to the flooding.

The scientists point out that the bay's coast has become sharply defined, owing to the fishpond dikes that have been raised against the "rising" sea.

Subsidence

There is a global factor that aggravates the local watery situation, particularly in the Manila Bay area. And that is global warming. But Rodolfo emphasizes that "subsidence" is more to blame.

Subsidence is the "lowering of entire regional surfaces due to natural compaction, enhanced compaction and tectonic movements such as those due to volcanic activity or faulting."

Local subsidence, Rodolfo adds, is 10 times faster than the sea level rise.

The UP study says that global warming raises the sea level in two ways. "First, the water expands when heated. Secondly, melting continental and mountain glaciers contribute their melt-waters to the ocean. Over the last century, these two effects have raised the sea level about two millimeters per year, or 20 centimeters per century." In other words, it is almost insignificant when compared with the subsidence that continues to occur.

To say it plainly, parts of Camanava and the three provinces are sinking.

Groundwater extraction

It takes a while for rainwater to seep into the ground and replace the water that has been drawn out from under the ground. The floodwaters seek channels to flow into, they are not significantly absorbed by the ground. When groundwater is extracted faster than it can be replaced, the soil becomes compacted.

The UP study presents as example Manila's South Harbor where records of mean sea level rose at a rate of about 2 millimeters per year (the rate of global sea level rise for the past century) until the early 1960s.

Things have changed dramatically with the mean sea level rising 10 times faster. "The accelerated rise correlates with the rates at which water was pumped out of deep wells in Manila. In turn, rates of groundwater extraction correlate with the growth of the population that utilizes it."

River deltas, the scientists explain, are very susceptible to subsidence because the water they contain is squeezed out by the weight of new deposits. The compaction process is greatly accelerated when water is withdrawn from an aquifer or the sand and gravel layer within it.

Think of the aquifer as a porous mix of sand and gravel. When water is pumped out faster than it can be replenished by nature, the sand and gravel become packed. The aquifer loses volume and land surface settles.

Geology researchers from UP have observed deep well pumps that appear to have risen from the ground in areas where subsidence has occurred. Actually the pumps did not rise, it is the ground that has lowered itself or has sunk due to compaction. The Manila Bay area is among the coastal cities in Asia that are subsiding because of over-pumping of water.

Pampanga delta

More than 30 pumps have been counted in the Pampanga delta. Construction dates and their apparent rise yield the rate of subsidence which is between 2 and 4 cm per year.

The study adds that unlike Manila, Pampanga has no long-term history of groundwater extraction so population growth in the 1960s could be used as the benchmark. Local informants observed that it was between the 1960s and the 1980s that flooding became enhanced. Flooding was the result of subsidence.

Dikes, sea walls and dredging of water channels are not only costly, according to the scientists. Their benefits are also short-lived.

Increased forest cover is one great solution the scientists agree on. Trees delay the rainwater that drains from the land to the streams. The water has time to seep into the soil and replenish the groundwater. Trees reduce soil erosion, thus also reducing siltation in lowland channels. Floods could then naturally clear the clogs in these channels.

Other solutions

With *esteros* and rivers becoming veritable garbage dumps, if not housing sites, it's no wonder that many waterways have all but disappeared from the map. The scientists suggest that these channels' original width be restored and floodwaters allowed to occupy larger flood plain areas.

Illegally widened fishponds have also choked channels, the scientists say. Fishpond dikes are continually being raised against the "rising" sea, preventing the rain floods from draining into the sea.

Floods have a role to play. They leave behind deposits of silt that build up the flood plains, thus reducing the effects of subsidence.

Metro Manila and its surroundings need not sink at an alarming rate. Over-pumping could be prevented if the guidelines set by the Philippine Water Code of 1979 were observed.

The key is regulation—of well drilling and of volumes extracted. Valves for free-flowing wells must also be controlled and pumps/wells properly spaced.

Limiting the number of wells operated by local governments can reduce wastewaters and ground subsidence.

A case in point is Parañaque City. For more than a decade, subdivision residents had to make do with the trickle they got while illegal water distributors charged exorbitant rates for the water they brought to homes in huge tanks.

These water distributors were in cahoots with employees of the water service department who had control of the valves. They stole water to their hearts' content, filling tanks as big as airplanes. Others built wells with powerful pumps. The residents had no choice but to buy rationed water.

As global warming continues because of environmental degradation, Planet Earth continues to heat up. The sea rises, wreaking havoc on the fragile environment.

The government must make sound plans in harmony with the changing climes. It must listen, not just to what it wants to hear from paid consultants, but to the advice of scientists and critics. When push comes to shove, it must stand its ground.

Wasting precious time and dwindling resources is a crime.

How's the weather?

TODAY will be generally cloudy, with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms affecting most of the country, weathermen yesterday said.

A bulletin issued by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said that the intertropical convergence zone would continue to affect Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Coastal waters, including Manila Bay, would be slight to moderate. High tide, measuring 1.45 meters, would be at 9:29 a.m. in the Manila Bay, while low tide, measuring negative 0.26 meter, would come at 6:26 p.m.

Metro Manila would also experience party cloudy to cloudy skies, with rain showers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon would be partly cloudy.

Light to moderate winds would be blowing from the southeast.

Temperature range throughout the country was expected at 24 to 33 degrees Celsius.

Norman Bordadora

Palace: History will judge GMA on Iraq war

From page A1

its all-out support for the war.

Villar, who called for a Senate inquiry into the controvesy, added that the administration could no longer justify its plan to send a Philippine peacekeeping force to Iraq.

The US war in Iraq remained largely unpopular in the Philippines, with many legislators, the influential Catholic Church and civic groups questioning its legitimacy.

Even so, Ms Macapagal became a staunch backer of the war, echoing claims by Bush that it was necessary to rid Saddam Hussein of weapons of mass destruction. No evidence of such weapons has been found by US forces occupying Iraq.

Ms Macapagal's support was rewarded by Bush in May when Washington promoted the Philippines into a major non-Nato ally and promised more military aid.

Howard

Also under fire is Australian Prime Minister John Howard, who arrived in Manila last night for a state visit, amid growing demands for answers to questions about the intelligence used by Australia to justify its decision to join the US-led war in Iraq.

But Howard has so far shrugged off the controversy, saying it is being blown out of proportion by the media and opposition politicians who have accused him of misleading the public with claims that Iraq had tried to purchase uranium from Africa.

Howard said that even if Australia had known Iraq had not sought to buy uranium from Niger, it would have made no difference to his decision to go to war.

"I think it's been blown out of all proportion and people should remember that there are many other elements to the intelligence jigsaw on which our decision is based," he said Sunday in an interview on Australian television.

"If I'd have known about this shock horror revelation ... it wouldn't have made one jot of difference to the decision that my government took because it was in overall terms a tiny part of the total picture."

George Tenet, head of the CIA, has taken the blame for allowing Bush to erroneously tell the American people that Iraq had tried to secure nuclear material from sources in Africa.

Another false claim

But even as Bush works to quiet a controversy over his discredited claim of Iraqi uranium shopping in Africa, another of his prewar assertions is coming under fire: the alleged link between Saddam Hussein's regime and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

Before the war, Bush and members of his Cabinet said Saddam was harboring top al-Qaida operatives and suggested Iraq could provide the terrorist network chemical, biological or even nuclear weapons.

Critics attacked those assertions from the beginning for being short on corroborating evidence and contrary to the ideologies of Saddam and al-Qaida.

Now, two former Bush administration intelligence officials say the evidence linking Saddam to the group responsible for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks was never more than sketchy at best.

"There was no significant pattern of cooperation between Iraq and the al-Qaida terrorist operation," Greg Thielmann, a former state department intelligence official, said last week.

Intelligence agencies agreed on the "lack of a meaningful connection to al-Qaida" and said so to the White House and Congress, said Thielmann, who left the Bureau of Intelligence and Research last September.

Another former Bush administration intelligence official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, agreed there was no clear link between Saddam and al-Qaida.

Episodic

"The relationships that were plotted were episodic, not continuous," the former official said.

A UN terrorism committee says it has no evidence—other than US Secretary of State Colin Powell's assertions in his UN speech on Feb. 5—of any ties between al-Qaida and Iraq.

And US officials say American forces searching in Iraq have found no significant evidence tying Saddam's regime with Bin Laden's terrorist network.

"One of the things that concerns me is the continued reference to the war in Iraq as part of the war on terrorism. There's not much evidence to support that linkage," said Sen. Bob Graham of Florida, a presidential candidate and top Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee.

In the weeks and months before the war, Bush and administration officials repeatedly said Saddam had ties to al-Qaida and other terrorist groups which could provide a pathway for weapons of mass destruction to find their way to terrorists. US forces have not found any chemical, biological or nuclear weapons in Iraq so far.

At the time, many terrorism experts criticized the claim. They noted that Saddam's secular regime was just the kind of Arab government Bin Laden's Islamic extremists would want to replace. Critics also pointed out the lack of hard evidence of links between Saddam and Bin Laden. *AP*

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Market . . .

From page A1

The market also does not favor any government takeover of a private enterprise.

"Anything that the government touches turns to mud. Look at the Philippine National Bank or the National Power Corp.," Eagle Equities Inc. president Joseph Roxas said.

Roxas said the possibility of Cojuangco losing control of SMC was bringing fresh uncertainties to the market.

"This implies that Danding may lose control of SMC to the government and the market won't like it because the government doesn't have a good track record in running enterprises," Roxas said.

"Also, the market thinks that SMC is being run well under Cojuangco," he said.

Carranza said he would not even mind if the combined 47-percent block in SMC would be acquired by Japan's Kirin Brewery Corp., which bought a 15-percent stake in the conglomerate last year.

Until the government secures a court ruling stripping Cojuangco of the right to the 20-percent block in SMC, the former Marcos crony will still have the biggest voting right in the blue chip company even if the government has indisputable control over the 27-percent block.

Under an earlier shareholder agreement with Kirin, which Malacañang had approved, Cojuangco and Kirin vote as one bloc, giving them a combined 35-percent voting bloc in SMC.

Appeal

Manila Rep. Harry Angping of Cojuangco's Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) said the adverse ruling has not loosened Cojuangco's hold on SMC.

Angping said the ruling was likely to be appealed by Cojuangco's lawyers at the Sandiganbayan and would eventually be raised to the Supreme Court.

A government source said that, at best, the UCPB ruling should give state prosecutors fresh impetus to go after Cojuangco's 20-percent stake in SMC, with at least half of these shares reportedly owned by Marcos.

Cojuangco acquired the shares from the Zobel-Ayala group in the early 1980s, allegedly using money he borrowed from UCPB, which allowed the Marcos crony to wrest full control of the country's biggest food and beverage concern.

He previously completed the acquisition of the 31-percent stake (now 27 percent) of SMC from the Soriano bloc using the coco levy funds.

Angping said the Sandiganbayan ruling was tainted with politics considering that its decision was released at a time of Cojuangco's rising popularity.

A recent survey made by an independent firm showed that Cojuangco's popularity rating rose from 1 percent to 8 percent since he went on a provincial tour two weeks ago. "The feedback has been strong and positive. People at the Palace must be panicking," Angping said. *With a report from Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

Raps vs Danding pushed

From page A1

ang records, *na*-dismiss *yata*," he said.

"If we find it, we will look at it, *pero baka* prescribed *na*," he added. As of 2001, the INQUIRER found only five pending graft cases before the Sandiganbayan against Cojuanco et al. in connection with the coco levy misuse.

The levy was collected from coconut farmers from 1973 to 1982. The funds were used to acquire UCPB and a substantial stake in San Miguel Corp. Today, the coco levy funds are estimated to be worth between P100 billion and P150 billion.

Marcelo said he would sit down with Carranza this week to go over all pending graft cases against the Marcoses and their cronies for ill-gotten wealth.

This includes the coco levy cases against Cojuangco et al. The UCPB case is not one of them.

On Friday, the Sandiganbayan ruled on the civil aspect of the UCPB case, forfeiting the shares of Cojuangco, Juan Ponce Enrile, Maria Clara Lobregat and other officials of the Philippine Coconut Producers Federation Inc. (Cocofed) in favor of government.

About 94 percent of UCPB is sequestered, 72.2 percent of which were acquired with coco levy funds. The rest were held by individuals associated with Cojuangco and the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Marcos decreed that the then Cojuangco-controlled UCPB was the administrator of the funds that were invested in six oil mills. The oil mills, in turn, own 14 holding companies that own 27 percent of San Miguel Corp.

Marcelo said he expected the Sandiganbayan to decide on the forfeiture cases involving San Miguel Corp. and the Coconut Industry Investment Fund "within the next 30 to 60 days" in accordance with the Supreme Court's order.

Pamalakaya information officer Gerry Albert Corpuz said the cases against Cojuangco must be filed at "the soonest time possible."

But the DOJ said it would look into the alleged criminal culpability of Cojuangco and his associates for allegedly dissipating the coco levy funds once the Sandiganbayan's decision becomes final and executory.

"Only then will we review their acts and find out their liability. We will look into their actions that can amount to a violation of the Revised Penal Code," Justice Undersecretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez said.

Gutierrez said the DOJ had not received a copy of the antigraft court's landmark decision although it would try to get hold of one today.

"If the Macapagal administration through the DOJ resists in filing cases against Cojuangco, Malacañang can expect a deluge of protests from coconut farmers," Corpuz said.

Entire case

Pamalakaya insisted that the Sandiganbayan decide on the entire Civil Case No. 33 pertaining to the coco levy funds that has been pending before the antigraft court since 1987.

The PCGG filed the case against Cojuangco, Marcos, Imelda Marcos, Enrile, Lobregat, Manuel Elizalde Jr., Jose Aspiras and others with the Sandiganbayan's first division. The commission sought damages in the amount of P102 billion against the respondents in connection with the coco levy funds.

The Sandiganbayan ruling on Friday was only a partial summary judgment of the three cases involving the UCPB (Case No. 33-A), CIIF (Case No. 33-B) and SMC (Case No. 33-F).

The antigraft court rendered judgment on the three out of the eight cases filed against Cojuangco involving shares of coconut levy funds used by Cojuangco and his group to acquire ownership of corporations in CIIF and SMC.

"The Sandiganbayan should decide this case with finality and apply the same decision to the remaining five pending cases before the antigraft court to end Cojuangco's claim to the coconut levy funds," Pamalakaya said in a statement.

Corpuz said the decision of the Sandiganbayan forfeiting Cojuangco's shares in UCBP merited Cojuangco's removal as chair of SMC.

Wealth audit

He supported former Solicitor General Frank Chavez's proposal to audit Cojuangco and his associates' wealth so the money and assets they earned from using the coco levy funds could be returned to the rightful owners of the coconut levy fund—the 1.3 million small coconut farmers and their dependents.

"What Cojuangco and his pals gained from using the coconut levy funds must be confiscated and should be returned to the coconut farmers in the name of truth and justice," Corpuz said.

He said the exact amount of coco levy funds should be determined because Cojuangco was insisting that the amount was close to only P10 billion.

With a report from Philip Tubeza

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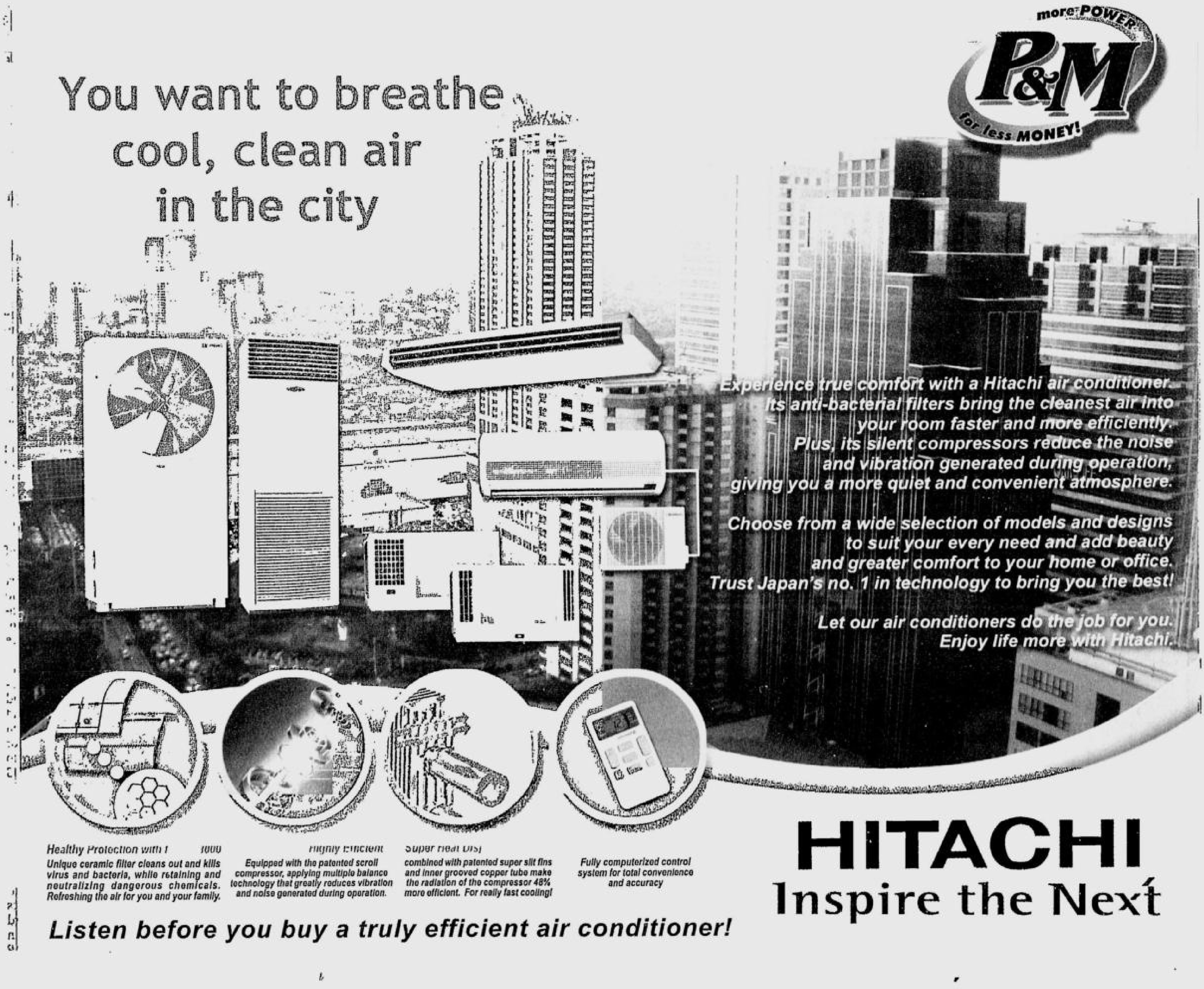
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Happiness comes in threes

From page A1

Raymond Amara.

Aged 1 to 5 years old, the triplets sang, danced and made happy faces. They filled Dee's private resort with laughter, and wails when discomforted by the sun's searing heat.

Dee, a telecommunications entrepreneur, preferred chatting with the parents, unable to keep up with the energy of the kids.

In playing adopted father to the triplets, Dee said he wasn't trying to make it to the Guinness Book of World Records. This is one of the charity works of his late father's Dee Hwa Liong Foundation, he said.

Each of the triplets, who all come from poor families in this town and Angeles City, gets monthly support for milk, medicines and vitamins, and undergoes regular medical checkups.

The Dee Hwa Liong Foundation College had assured them of educational scholarship from elementary to college, Dee said.

Rearing triplets isn't easy, according to Gina Cano, whose boys are now 4 years old. They were the first set of triplets that the foundation helped in 1999.

That year, Cano walked into the office of the then local daily Sun.Star Clark to seek help for her bills in two hospitals. Her bills piled up after giving birth to what she thought were only twins but who were joined by a third brother, Angelo.

The story inspired generosity in readers, including Dee. Cano's bills were settled in less than a week, but that was not the end of it.

The Cano couple was not financially prepared to rear three kids all at the same time. The baby feeding formula alone ate up what little earnings they made.

The foundation, which had earlier donated 40 classrooms and 400 toilets in Mabalacat, found the milk budget a light load to carry. The milk for the Cano triplets came in steady supply.

The Canos chose not to have more children.

"They're enough. It's tiring to have three kids all at the same time. Each boy demands attention," Cano said, adding that child rearing had made her thin.

The story of the Cano boys spread around, and soon the foundation found itself helping other newborn triplets. The number grew to 10 sets.

Other parents, who are poor, had contemplated giving their children to their relatives. Dee, who grew up in a family of seven, looked to this option with sadness and strongly discouraged it. "The family should be together," he said.

And so the foundation, in the last four years, has sustained its support to the triplets on a regular basis.

"Children are angels, and they are our future. The fact that they survived from birth is a miracle," Dee said.

PRESIDENT Macapagal with the Payatas kids—(from left) Jayson Vann Banogan, Jomer Pabalan and Erwin Dolera—during 2002 Sona.

PDI PHOTO

Dream boats . . .

From page A1

ments, largely because of government scholarship and livelihood assistance, Soliman said.

Such accomplishments will be part of the Department of Social Welfare and Development's contribution in the President's State of the Nation Address on July 28.

There are 528 more Payatas children who have each been receiving P10,000 in annual scholarship since 2001, according to Soliman.

The secretary was hoping that the government scholars would finish at least high school with the help of private benefactors. The Children's Hour project has pledged P3 million for the children's schooling this year, she said.

But Yolanda Alcantara, a former staff member of the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap who initially acted as guardian of the three boys, was not amused.

"Where are they? Who are they?" she asked, referring to the 528 children. "We doubt if all of them are receiving the benefits."

Despite this apprehension, Soliman and government social workers may have won over critics as the children and their families reportedly distanced themselves from Kadamay and other cause-oriented groups shortly after Ms Macapagal presented Jayson, Erwin and Jomer at her Sona in 2001.

Alcantara who last saw the boys about five months ago said Kadamay simply wanted the boys to live a quiet life away from the media glare.

Like the three boys, Christian Custodio, Rachel Manadong and Ricadonna Sayson each received P16,000 in yearly scholarship funds from the DSWD, on top of P3,000 in monthly allowance from private benefactors, according to Soliman.

Rachel, 15, received the "Most Cooperative Student" award at St. Vincent where she is a high school junior. She is involved in theater arts in school and has appeared in several TV drama shows.

Christian, 14, plans to join the Philippine Military Academy after finishing high school. Ricadonna, 15, is a third year high school student at a public school in Rizal.

These children could not have enjoyed these benefits had they not called the President's attention to the plight of residents following the collapse of a "mountain" of garbage in Payatas three years ago. The disaster on July 10, 2000 left 217 people dead.

Besides the request for educational and livelihood assistance, they asked that they be granted houses in Payatas and that justice be given to their loved ones who died in the disaster.

To these, Soliman admitted the government could only do so much.

"Because there are various groups and issues involved in the resolution of the Payatas land and in view of several cases currently pending in court, strong political will is needed to fast-track the resolution of the issue," the DSWD said.

"Justice for the victims will come basically in the form of reparation," Soliman told the INQUIRER last week.

Pending the resolution of the two key issues, families content themselves with educational and livelihood assistance.

Seed money

The families of Jayson, Erwin, Jomer, Christian, Rachel, and Ricadonna each received a seed money of P10,000.

Jayson's grandmother Anacleta put up a car accessories business to augment her husband's earnings from driving a jeepney.

The families of Jomer, Christian and Rachel raised pigs, while Ricadonna's grandmother put up a variety store.

Jomer's parents set up a gas stove repair shop in their house in Rodriguez, Rizal, where they also grow vegetables in the backyard.

The remaining Payatas families got a total of P1.2 million, which was equally divided among three cause-oriented groups to which they belong—the Samahang Tunay ng Phase II Lupang Pangako, Sandigang Magkakapitbahay ng Payatas (Sankap), and the July 10 Payatas Victims Organization.

Hundreds more of Payatas residents are in dire need of assistance.

Soliman said the government gave priority to those belonging to organizations. "It's much easier to deal with organized groups," she said.

The Samahang Tunay invested the grant in a credit cooperative, Sankap in a community center for waste shop management, and July 10 in a waste recycling center.

Having jump-started what it called a recovery program for the Payatas victims, Soliman said sustaining this would prove to be a much tougher task.

The government needs at least P5 million in five years, on top of the P4 million in yearly grant, to ensure that its Payatas scholars all complete their secondary education, according to Soliman.

The DSWD is enlisting the support of private companies to help raise more funds for its livelihood and educational programs, the secretary said.

"All our efforts would go for naught if they are left hanging," said Soliman, who will step down as DSWD chief in June next year. "But before I leave, I'll make sure that there'll be money safely kept in a trust fund."

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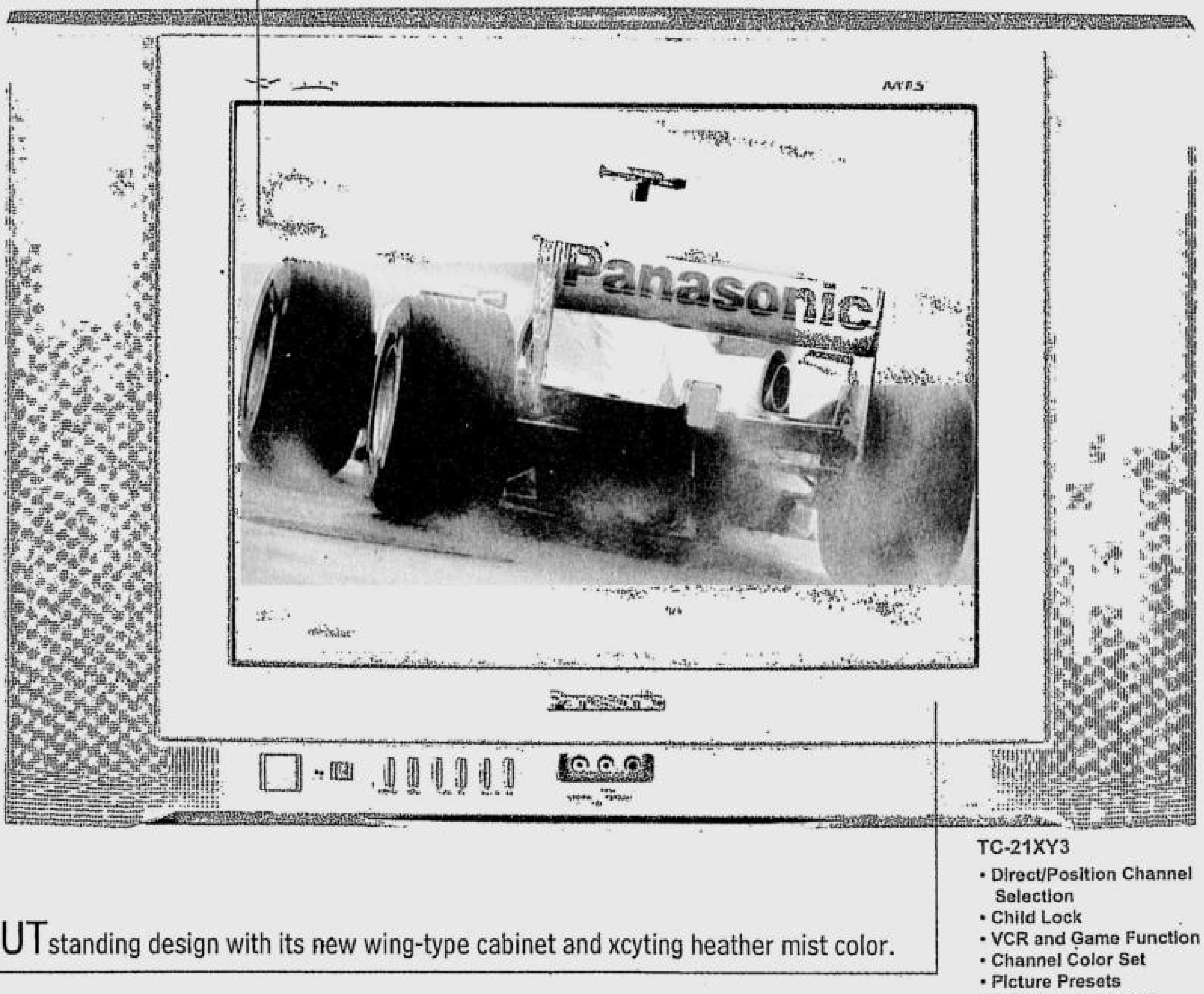

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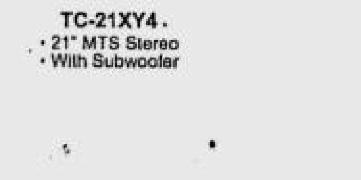
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DAWN TRAGEDY

6 die, 7 injured in NLEX mishaps

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

TRAGEDY struck twice along the North Luzon Express Way (NLEX) before dawn yesterday as two separate traffic accidents killed six persons and injured seven others.

The first accident happened at about 2:30 a.m. and killed Rolando Tuvera and Francisco Calagno, both of San Jacinto, Pangasinan.

The second happened two hours later and claimed the lives of Jeffrey Fajardo, 31, Benigno Doria and two others who, as of press time, have yet to be identified.

According to Orly Lanuza of the Philippine National Construction Corporation (PNCC), the Toyota Hi-Ace (ADZ 927) of Tuvera and Calagno suffered a flat tire on the Manila-bound lane of the NLEX near kilometer 68 in San Rafael, Mexico, Pampanga.

As the flat tire was being replaced on the shoulder of the expressway, Tuvera, Calagno and companion John Christian, 17, stepped out of the vehicle.

Because of the darkness, the driver of an approaching Isuzu dump truck (UHX 650) failed to notice the parked vehicle and hit the three men who were standing beside the van.

A report from the PNCC said the passengers of the Hi-Ace failed to display any early warning device.

The victims were rushed to the Jose Lingat Hospital in San Fernando, Pampanga, where Tuvera and Calagno were declared dead on arrival.

John Christian suffered minor bruises.

The second accident involved an Isuzu Hilander (WFZ 965) with 10 passengers.

The Hilander was on the northbound lane near Capaya, Angeles City, at about 4:30 a.m. when the car suddenly skidded and flipped a few times before falling off the edge of the road.

Fajardo and an unidentified victim died at the Dee Hwa Liong Hospital in Angeles City, where six others, including a child, were still being treated as of press time.

Doria, a college student in Manila, died with another victim while being treated at the Angeles City University Hospital.

METROBRIEFS

Wrong place

JOAN Bacaycay thought she'd smoke while waiting to see someone at the Makati City Police Station on Saturday night. She had hardly made a puff when she was arrested by the cops there. She realized too late that she lit up inside an air-conditioned place and was booked for violating the city's anti-smoking ordinance. Bacaycay, 32, of 3660 Solita Street, Barangay Tejeros, Makati City, is now detained at the Criminal Investigation Division Office. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Waiters fight

A DISPUTE over who should collect a customer's bill drove two waiters to get physical in Malate, Manila. It was near closing time yesterday morning at the Spirits Coyote Bar on J. Nakpil street when waiter Leo Rayoso, 22, got into an argument with fellow waiter, Daniel Benzon, 35. Rayoso allegedly hit Benzon with a beer bottle in the face after Benzon slapped him. Police reports said the two fought when Rayoso handled a customer's bill which was assigned to Benzon. Benzon needed five stitches for his injury on the upper left portion of his face. *Tarra Quismundo*

Embarrassing escape

A POLICE officer allegedly threatened to kill a traffic enforcer after he fell off his motorcycle. Investigation showed Nelson F. Bocboc, 31, was manning traffic flow on Julia Vargas and San Miguel Avenues in Pasig City last Saturday morning when he saw the policeman on board his bike cruising in a counterflow direction. Bocboc said he tried to flag down the officer, but the latter sped off, only to fall as he reached the junction. This apparently angered the policeman who drew his gun and poked it at Bocboc. He grabbed the traffic enforcer's collar, fired a shot into the air, and threatened to kill him before speeding off once again. The enforcer later learned that the suspect was a certain P02 Bulan. *Leila Salaverria*

Terror in Sta. Ana

GUNSHOTS shattered what appeared to be a quiet morning yesterday in Sta. Ana, Manila. The shots were fired by three men on board motorcycles, killing one man and injuring another in front of a retail store on Arellano and A. Francisco Streets. Police identified the fatality as Ronald Duresa, 36. Police said he tried to run away but the suspects caught up with him and finished him off. Alberto Anuncio, 27, who was also in front of the store, was hit but managed to hide inside a jeepney parked nearby. He was reported to be in critical condition at the Ospital ng Maynila where he was taken. Police have yet to determine the motive for the shooting. *Tarra Quismundo*

Calling all cabbies

MAUREEN Cuevas would like to appeal to the driver or passengers of the taxi she took from Megamall to Ortigas on July 8, 2003, a Tuesday. Important documents among which include a marriage certificate (in the name of Amy G. Velardo) and birth certificates enclosed in a red expanded folder were left inside the white taxi. Finders of the said documents are requested to call Ms. Weng Amantillo at 922-8136.

At least, cop station won't stink now

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

YOU NO longer have to cover your nose if you happen to go today to the Pasay City Police Station.

This is because the de-clogging has been done on the City Jail's septic tank and the diggings have been covered, but workers were still laying new pipes yesterday.

The de-clogging of the septic tank began on Friday, which caused a major annoyance to policemen, complainants and visitors who had to hold their breath or cover their noises because of the stench.

The septic tank was located in front of the Pasay City Police Station Criminal Investigation Division Office, which is in the same building as the City Jail.

Police Chief Oscar Catalan, who said he was hurt by the INQUIRER story about the repair work last Saturday, clarified that the smell only wafted as far as the CID office, and not the entire police headquarters.

The city jail houses more than 800 inmates in 17 cells, each equipped with a toilet.

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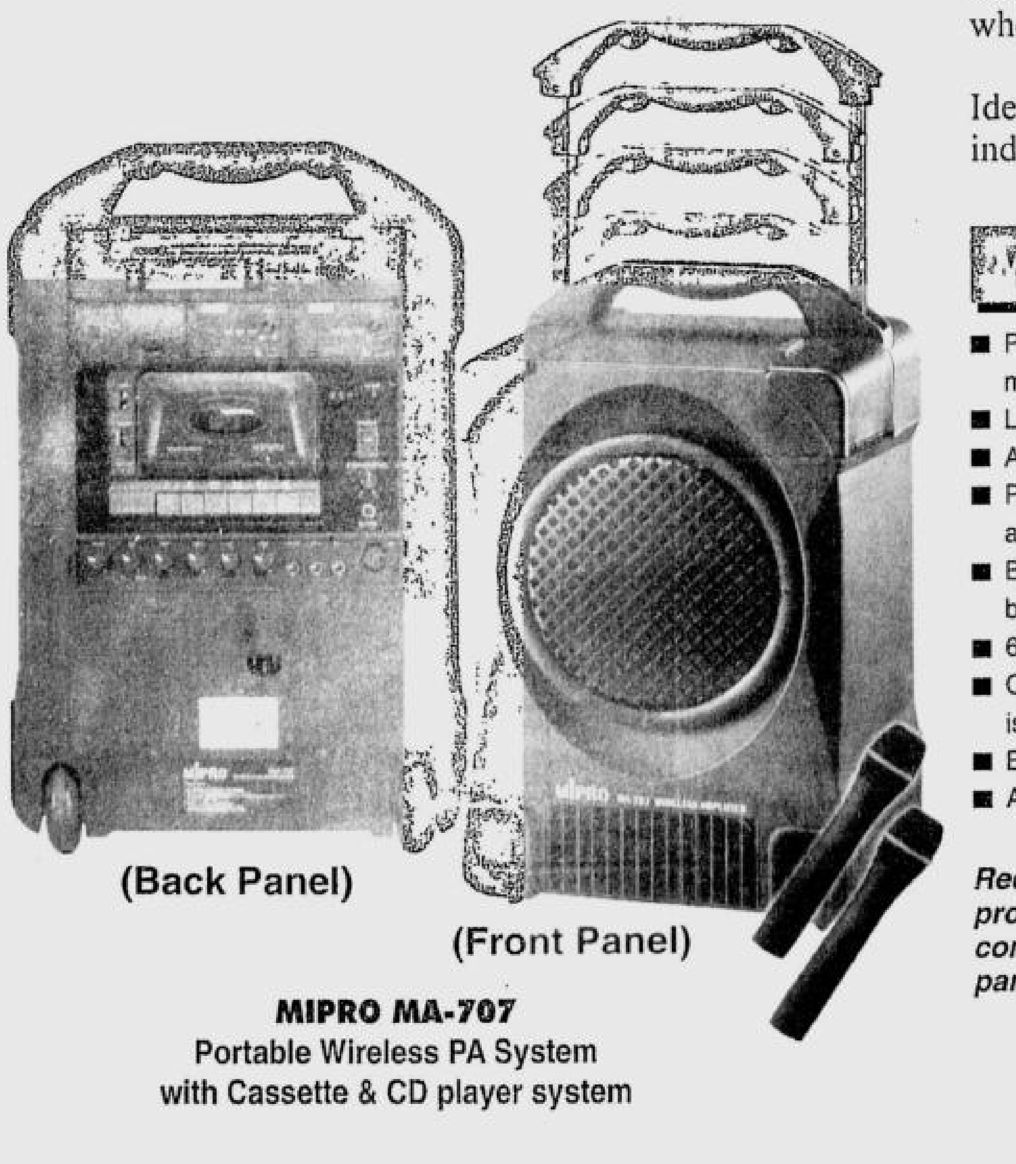

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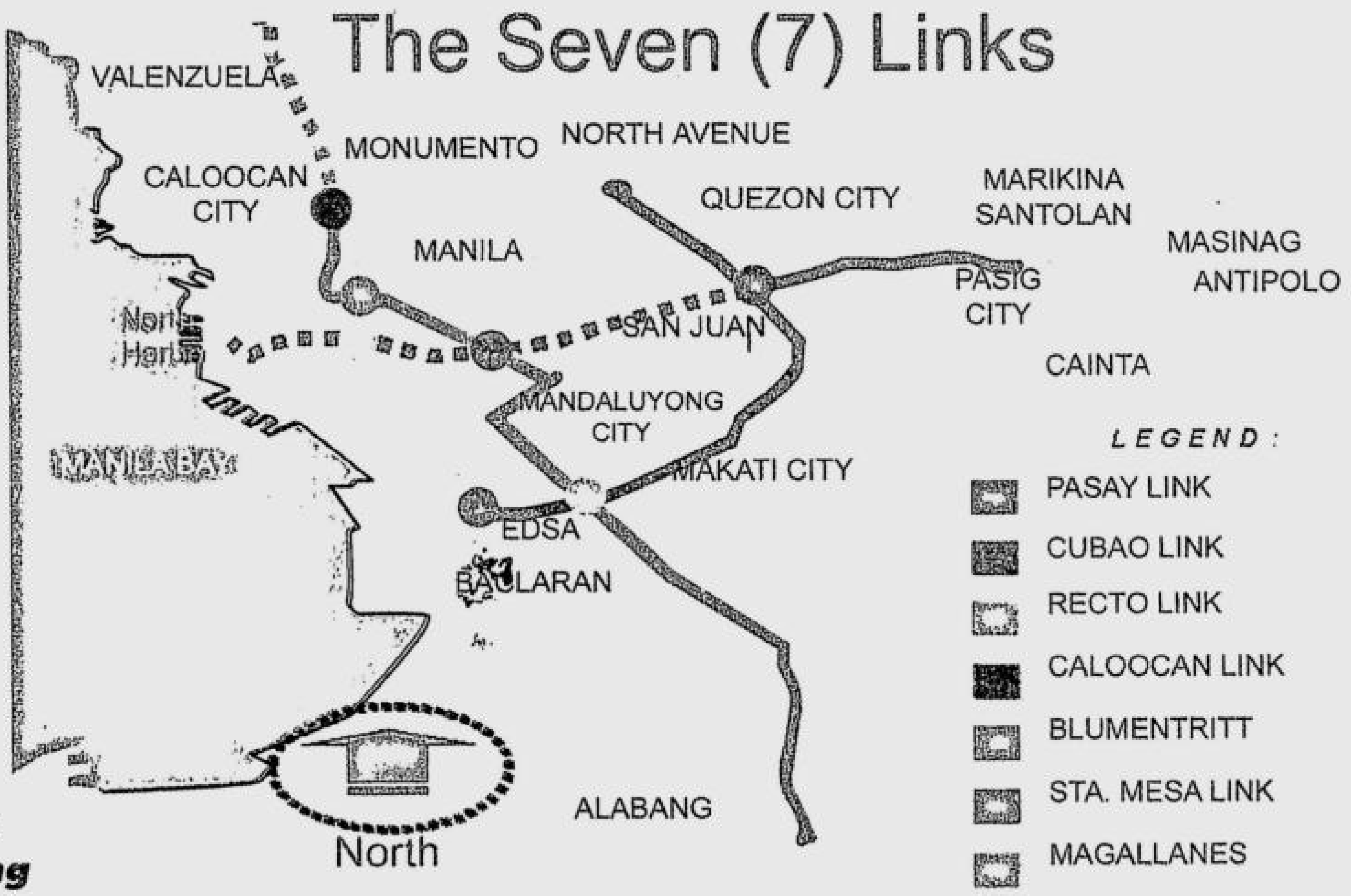
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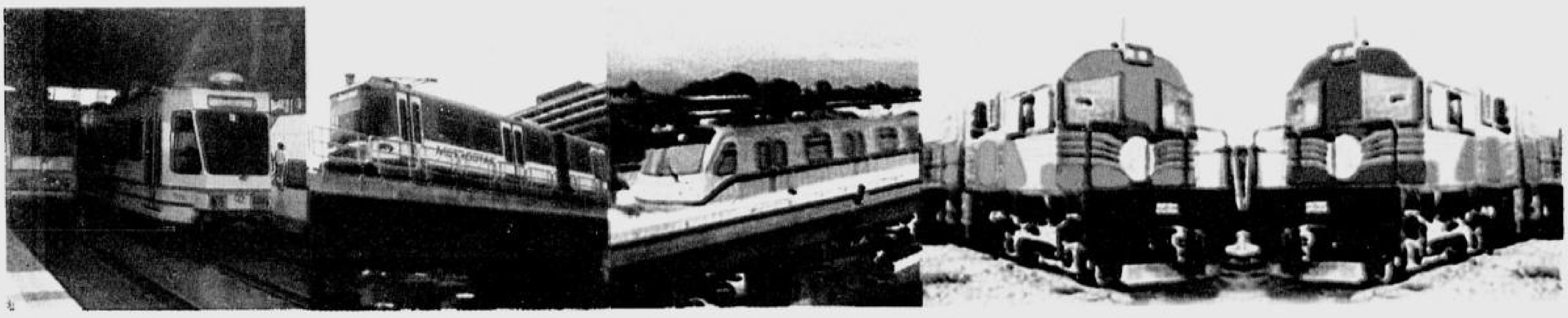

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Clash at a bash

Aides of Caloocan mayor, solon scuffle at birthday party; guests run for safety

By Tarra Quismundo

CELEBRATION turned to panic for dozens of people Saturday night when the security escorts of Caloocan City's Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo and Rep. Enrico Echiverri clashed at a birthday party of a local councilor.

Tempers reportedly flared as Malonzo and Echiverri fought a tug-of-war for Mocel Quilinguen, one of the congressman's police escorts.

Malonzo and Echiverri were both guests at the birthday celebration of Councilor Gualberto Bacolod at the Bagong Silang High School.

At around 11 p.m., Malonzo ordered his men to apprehend Quilinguen and seize his handgun. However, Quilinguen, who is reportedly a member of the Northern Police District assigned to Echiverri, resisted.

Malonzo told the INQUIRER yesterday that he did not like the way Quilinguen looked at him so he confronted the congressman's escort.

The mayor said he asked Quilinguen if he was a policeman and the escort allegedly responded with an angry tone.

"I saw him about to pull his gun in front of me so I ordered my men to arrest him. He can't do that to a Mayor," Malonzo related.

A scuffle reportedly ensued between Malonzo's men and Quilinguen, who at 5 feet-11 inches managed to struggle free and flee by climbing a fence at the back of the school.

Malonzo said he had ordered the Caloocan Special Weapons and Tactics Team to arrest Quilinguen.

In an interview, Echiverri's chief-of-staff Rommel Ramirez said Quilinguen had been sent to a safehouse to protect him from the mayor's men.

Ramirez said the commotion sent guests running for safety.

According to him, people panicked because Malonzo, who appeared to be drunk, was with 50 armed security men.

But Malonzo said that he was with only two security men and some barangay officials. He blamed the group of Echiverri whom he said were drunk when they gate-crashed the party.

Ramirez said it was Echiverri who waved to halt the commotion before his supporters took him to safety.

He added that Quilinguen already had previous encounters with Malonzo.

"Quilinguen stopped Malonzo when he tried to attack the congressman in his residence last year," Ramirez said.

But Malonzo said that though he might have seen Quilinguen before, he did not know who he was.

"We are filing charges, possibly of frustrated homicide and grave misconduct, against Quilinguen," Malonzo said.

Ramirez said they were studying the filing of counter-charges against Malonzo's men.

Echiverri used to be Malonzo's secretary.

Ramirez said the congressman and Malonzo had a falling out after the mayor broke his promise to Echiverri that he would endorse him (Echiverri) as Caloocan's next Mayor.

VIEW FROM THE TOP
Bicycle aficionado Ronaldo Bugarin, 31, looks down from his 8-foot high bike as he tours the Manila Baywalk leisure and activity park yesterday. Aside from being a novelty, the bicycle can be useful during times of flooding.
ERIK ARAZAS

BF: I'll replant trees if road project fails

By Leila B. Salaverria

ONE CHANCE.

This, according to Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando, is all that he is asking from people opposing the removal of trees along Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City.

"If the project makes the traffic problem in Katipunan worse, then I will replace all the trees that the MMDA has uprooted," Fernando said yesterday. "I will even replace the relocated trees with bigger ones."

But the opposition is apparently unwilling to grant him any concessions.

Last Saturday morning, the movement against the uprooting of the trees sprang back to life with a rally in front of the Miriam College of Quezon City.

Residents of different subdivisions in Loyola Heights, environment groups and students from various schools there tied green and yellow ribbons round the remaining trees.

Ester Perez de Tagle, president of Concerned Citizens Against Pollution, said they would remain vigilant for the MMDA's next move.

"We should be on our toes so that the MMDA would not be able to cut more trees," she said.

De Tagle disclosed that they had asked the Quezon City Regional Trial Court for a mandatory and preliminary injunction against the MMDA during a special hearing last week.

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TNT rules All Filipino on historic 4-win streak

By June Navarro

TALK N' Text made sure its first championship will be the talk of the Philippine Basketball Association for years.

After trailing for three quarters, the Phone Pals outsteadied the defending champion Coca-Cola Tigers down the stretch to win, 78-76, last night and clinch the Samsung All Filipino Cup before a big crowd at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Talk N' Text ended its 14-year title drought by wrapping up the best-of-seven championship series in Game 6 with an unprecedented fourth straight victory.

It was only the third time that a team that lost the first two games of a best-of-seven went all the way, but the now defunct Toyota Tamaraws and the Purefoods Hotdogs did it in seven games.

"It's 50-50," said Talk N' Text coach Joel Banal as he acknowledged the hard work and determination of his boys and the Divine help that came his way.

"My boys worked very hard and He took care of the rest," added Banal, who became the second coach in history to win in the PBA, PBL, UAAP and NCAA.

The Tigers led by as many as 14 points before the Phone Pals tied the game for the first time at 58-all early in the last quarter to pave the way for an exciting finish that again showcased the never-say-die spirit of Talk N' Text.

Coca-Cola regained the lead for the last time at 71-68 on a three-point play by Poch Juinio and two free throws by Johnny Abarrientos before Talk N' Text wrested the upperhand for good behind Asi Taulava, Bong Ravena and Jimmy Alapag.

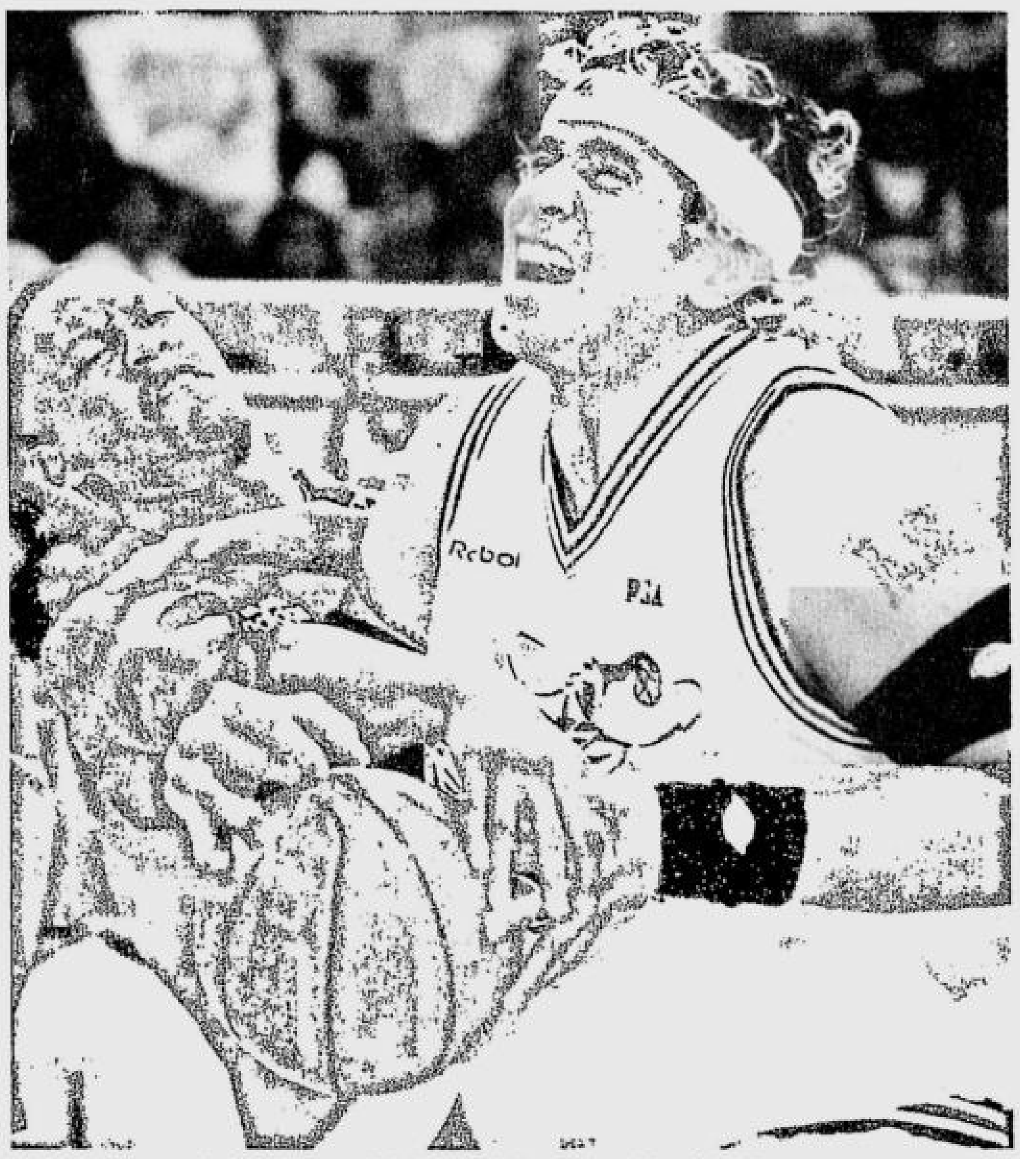
A three-pointer by Ravena tied it at 71-71, Taulava broke the deadlock with a short jumper and then Alapag unloaded another triple after a free throw by Ato Morano as Talk N' Text opened up a 76-72 lead with 43 seconds left.

Two free throws by Abarrientos followed by two charity misses by Taulava and another free throw by Rudy Hatfield pulled the Tigers within one, 75-76, with 29 seconds to go.

Taulava finally made his second free throw with 13 seconds left and Ravena contributed another to seal the win 78-75 after Morano missed a hurried three-point attempt.

In winning, the Phone Pals became the fourth team in the last six conferences to claim a

TNT/ A28



ASI Taulava gets fouled by Coca-Cola's Rob Wainwright with only 3:20 to go. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Warriors down Eagles; Tams outlast Falcons /A26

- Scott wants to clear air with Kidd /A27

- Bad boy Virenque's triumphant return /A30

- Tyson beat me up—bodyguard /A31

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

POOL: World Pool Championship 2003; Day 2, 1st Session; 4 p.m. (r); Day 2, 2nd Session; 6 p.m. (r); ESPN; Day 3, 1st Session; 9 p.m.; 2nd Session; tomorrow at 2 a.m.; Star Sports—Pool sharks from all across the globe gather in Cardiff, Wales in pursuit of the top prize.

BASKETBALL: 1982 NBA All Star Game; 8 a.m. (r—5 p.m.); 1986 NBA All-Star Game; 11 a.m. (r—10 p.m.); Solar Sports—Take a ride through memory lane and see Magic & Co. during their hey day.

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Warriors down Eagles; Tamaraws outlast Falcons

By Dennis U. Eroa

GAMES ON THURSDAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
11 a.m.—UST vs NU (Jrs)
2 p.m.—UST vs NU (Srs)
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs FEU (Srs)

TITLE-HUNGRY University of the East escaped with a nerve-wracking 69-68 squeaker over defending champion Ateneo even as Far Eastern University recovered in time to subdue Adamson, 57-53, yesterday in the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Big Dome.

With the win, the Warriors, whose last title came in 1985, erased the memory of last year's bitter Final Four setback to the Blue Eagles courtesy of Jec Chia's buzzer-beating jumper.

Fittingly, playmaker Paul Artadi, whose ill-timed drive to the basket in the homestretch led to UE's downfall last season, redeemed himself with a fiery performance, including a breakaway layup which proved to be the game's most decisive basket with 18 seconds remaining.

"The monkey is off our back," said a jubilant mentor David Zamar, whose team is ranked first in an exclusive pre-season survey among the competing coaches.

Zamar, a member of the famed UE backcourt which included now Ginebra mentor Allan Caidic during the school's triumphant 1984-1985 campaign, said this is the first time since he assumed the head coaching job two years ago that the Warriors triumphed in their opening game.

Earlier, FEU survived Adamson's furious rally in the fourth period to avoid a king-size upset.

UE and FEU, thus joined La Salle and National University in the winners' circle.

With coach Joel Banal tied up with his commitment with Talk N' Text, youthful Sandy Arespacochaga took over the coaching reins and for a while, the former Ateneo defender looked all set to steer the Eagles to victory.

After James Yap sank his fourth triple to give UE a slim 65-64 lead, LA Tenorio answered with his own triple and a split which silenced the UE crowd, 68-65, 58 seconds remaining.

But the Warriors kept their poise and was rewarded with an undergoal stab by JayR Estrada before an Ateneo turnover resulted in a perfect pass from Yap to a streaking Artadi, who sank the night's biggest shot.

Ateneo still had a chance to pull it out, but Rich Alvarez missed a jumper on the next play and the scramble for possession led to a jumpball between Artadi and Magnum Membrere, 2.8 seconds remaining.

SCORES:

FIRST GAME

FEU 57—Santos 14, Rizada 12, Zablan 7, Jones 6, Miranda 6, Sinco 5, Sierra 3, Chan 2, Razon 2, Isip 0, Yabut 0, Galdane 0.

ADAMSON 53—Abadia 15, Tagupa 15, Kong 9 Bono 6, Tiongco 5, Alonzo 2, Hate 1, Tajonera 0, Cabahug 0, Poloyapoy 0.

Quarters: 16-4, 38-19, 49-41, 57-53

SECOND GAME

UE 69—Yap 23, Artadi 14, Omiping 11, Estrada 8, Booker 6, Butel 4, Canaleta 3, Tan 0, Masbang 0, Alminario 0, Labagala 0.

ATENEO 68—Tenorio 19, Gonzales 13, Alvarez 12, Bugia 8, Fonacier 7, Del Rosario 5, Membrere 2, Escalona 2, Kramer 0, Arao 0, Intal 0.

Quarters: 21-19, 36-35, 47-54, 69-68

PLAYMAKER Paul Artadi shines against Ateneo. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Knights, Stags clash for share of top spot

STANDINGS	W	L
Mapua	3	1
JRU	2	1
Letran	2	1
SSC-R	2	1
Perpetual	2	2
San Beda	2	2
PCU	1	3
St. Benilde	0	3

GAMES TODAY (Rizal Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—Letran vs SSC-R (jrs/srs)
3 p.m.—JRU vs CSB (jrs/srs)

LETRAN and San Sebastian gun for a share of the lead with Mapua when they cross paths today in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Jose Rizal also aims for a piece of top spot when it goes up against the victory-starved College of St. Benilde Blazers in the other senior game.

The defending champion Stags drubbed the Philippine Christian University Dolphins last week to tie the Knights and the Heavy Bombers at 2-1.

The Mapua Cardinals grabbed solo leadership with a 3-1 record after beating the Dolphins on Friday.

Against the Dolphins, Pep Moore came alive in SSC's disappointing loss to the UPHR Altas and the Knights should watch out for him in their 1 p.m. meeting.

Jose Rizal and St. Benilde clash at 3 p.m.

Frederick Rodriguez, Kris Reyes, Aaron Aban and the 6-foot-5 rookie Jonathan Pinera must find ways to contain the 6-foot-7 Moore to sustain the Knights' back-to-back victories against San Beda College and the Blazers.

Letran coach Louie Alas and his boys must also find ways to limit SSC shooters Leomar Najorda, Chris Baluyot, Victor Maneclang and Michael Gonzales.

"San Sebastian is a multi-faceted team. It's difficult to stop the Stags offensively so I guess we just have to limit their scoring options, especially Moore," said Alas, chief architect of the Knights' 1999 NCAA title drive.

The Heavy Bombers are in a similar run like the Knights, beating Mapua and San Beda after an opening-day loss to the Stags.

JRU coach Boy De Vera will entrust his vaunted running attack to Marco Fajardo, Edward Attunaga, Wynsjohn Te, Mark Lindaya, McDonald and rookie Kenneth Cayukang.

The Bombers have a far more superior lineup than the Blazers, who dropped their three games against UPHR, PCU and Letran. *June Navarro*

First-time champions in Tacloban regional run

TACLOBAN CITY—Edgar Lapasigue of Catbalogan, Samar and Camila Luterte, a native of Baybay, Leyte, emerged first-time champions in the Tacloban Milo Marathon regional elimination race yesterday.

A veteran of the Pasig Heritage Marathon and the recent Manila Marathon, the 23-year-old Lapasigue proved unbeatable this time as he finally made it after three tries to the national finals of the 27th Milo Marathon set on October in Manila.

Lapasigue clocked 1:09.42 for the 20K run and earned P10,000 for his effort.

Demetrio Rosales, 24, from Hilongos, Leyte, duplicated his runner-up finish for the third time in 1:10.02 while third placer Alvin Magpatoc (1:10.59) completed the region's male qualifiers to the national finals of the event to be held in partnership this year with Cebu Pacific, Bayview Park Hotel, Adidas, Power Bar, My Globe and the DOT.

However, the story of the race, fired off by Leyte Governor Remedies Petilla in front of the provincial capitol, was the victory of 40-year-old Luterte in the women's division.

She took up running only three months ago, and prior to last Sunday's race had only competed in a 10K race in Cebu.

"*Yung mga anak ko kasi mga* runners *din, ang asawa ko dating* runner *din, at marami akong dapat bayaran na mga utang. Itong panalo ko bigay ng Diyos* (All my children are runners like my husband. I also have a lot of debts so this win is a gift from God)," said Luterte.

Luterte, whose son Gilbert also won P1,500 for his runner-up finish in the 5K run, clocked 1:32.17.

Runa Delbo, 18, an education student at the Leyte Normal University, salvaged second place, crossing the finish line in tears with a time of 2:04.48. The third placer and last qualifier to the national finals was Sharon Chua, 24, who came in just a second behind the runner-up.

Elmer Dilpos, Gilbert Duterte, and Ronnel Bartiquin finished 1-2-3 in the 5K run, clocking 16:38, 16:39, and 16:53, respectively. In the women's side, Erika Estacion was champion in 21:13, followed by Annielyn Tegio, 21:23, and Geralyn Donez, 22:48.

3rd BIMP-EAGA Games

PUERTO Princesa is taking major steps in its preparations for the coming 3rd BIMP-EAGA (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines-East Asia Growth Area) Friendship Games.

Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn said a series of consultation with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippine National Police and the Philippine Coast Guard have been made to assure the peace and order situation of the three-day meet set Aug. 23-25 at the Puerto Princesa-Palawan Sports Complex.

Hagedorn believes that the four-country meet co-organized by the Philippine Sports Commission under special projects of commissioners Leon Montemayor and Ambrocio de Luna, will boost the city's image as a top tourist destination in the country.

At least 500 athletes will vie for medals in five events.

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THE COUNTRY'S first female jockey, 21-year-old Annalyn Reloto, guides Hezagonebabes to victory in yesterday's Sec. Emilia Boncodin Apprentice Jockeys Cup at Sta. Ana Park. RUDY ESPERAS

RP softbelles, Taiwanese in key World Cup match

By Rey Danseco
Contributor

THE WELL-RESTED Philippine team eliminated Mexico with a convincing 7-1 win yesterday to advance to the International Bracket Championship against Chinese Taipei in the Second International Softball Federation (ISF) Junior Girls (16-and-under) World Cup in Plant City, Florida.

The winner between the Filipina batters, represented by national champion Paglaum Village National High School from Bacolod City, and the Taiwanese in their 8 a.m. game will advance to the World Cup finals scheduled today at 2 p.m.

Four squads in the Domestic bracket featuring teams from the United States will contest the other slot in the World Cup finals.

Rock N Fire (Manassas, Virginia) takes on the Lilburn (Georgia) T-Birds while the Team FLA (Palm Harbor, Florida) battles the (San Luis Obispo) California Cruisers.

The survivors will collide at 10 a.m. today to determine who will face the winner of the RP-Chinese Taipei game for the World Cup.

Chinese Taipei reached the International bracket finals after hammering Jamaica, 21-1 and Venezuela 8-3.

Nat'l taekwondo championships kick off

MORE than 500 jins from all over the country take center stage today when the Samsung Best of the Best Taekwondo Championships kick off at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City.

Competition is expected to be keen with the entry of national team mainstays like Roberto Cruz, Donald Geisler, Eve Marie Ditan and Jasmin Strachan.

Korean Ambassador Son Sang Ha will speak before the jins during the opening rites set at 5 p.m.

Other special guests in the weeklong event are Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso L. Dayrit, POC chair and Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado, Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain, Samsung vice president Maeng Dal Bae, POC first vice president Steve Hontiveros, RP delegation to the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games chef de mission Julian Camacho and PTA vice president Sung Chon Hong.

Elimination matches in the senior men's and women's and boys' and girls' competitions will be held from July 16 to 20. The event is managed by the International Management Group, sponsored by Samsung and supported by Philippine Star, Ayala Center, 103.5 K-Lite, Accel, Colours and Kix.

Former national champion Monsour del Rosario will conduct clinics for four days, while a taekwondo demonstration team will display their ways from July 15 to 19.

Only medallists of local tournaments are eligible to compete.

Russians get lion's share of golds in world amateurs

BANGKOK, Thailand—Russia's squad garnered the most gold and silver in the finals of the weeklong World Amateur Boxing Championships Saturday at Bangkok's Nimibutr Gymnasium.

Also shining were Cuba's boxers, with three of the four who made it through to the finals grabbing top honors.

Russia's Serguei Kazakov defeated China's Zou Shiming, 23-19, in the light flyweight category, but Zou made history by becoming his country's first boxer to advance so far in the world championships. He had upset defending champion Yan Barthelmy Varela of Cuba on Wednesday.

Two Thai boxers pushed through to the finals, but only flyweight Somjitr Jongjohor attained the gold, beating Jerome Thomas of France, 24-17.

Thomas, his ocuntry's best bet for gold in the championships, had beaten Filipino Violito Payla in the quarterfinals.

In addition to besting China's Zou, the Russian juggernaut also saw light heavyweight Evgueni Makarenko defeat Magomed Azipgadzhiev of Belarus, 29-11, and super heavyweight Aleksandr Povetkin beat Cuba's Pedro Sago, 29-27.

Cuba's squad took several unexpected losses during the tournament, but in addition to Solis' victory, salvaged its pride with gold medal performances by lightweight Mario Kindelan Mesa, who beat Thailand's Pichai Sayotha, 45-27, and welterweight Lorenzo Aragon Armenteros, who defeated Sherzod Husanov of Uzbekistan, 17-9.

Kazakhstan won two golds through featherweight Galib Jaffarov and middleweight Gennadi Golovkin. *AP*

Scott wants to clear air with Kidd

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—New Jersey Nets coach Byron Scott wants to clear the air with Jason Kidd.

A day after Kidd agreed to a six-year, $99 million contract to stay with the two-time Eastern Conference champion Nets, Scott said Saturday he hopes to talk with the All-Star as soon as possible.

The main topic probably will be a published report that Kidd wanted Scott fired as a condition for his returning to New Jersey.

"I was shocked when I first heard it," Scott said after the Nets' rookies and free agents finished a summer league practice. "But again, I didn't have any comments about it or any reaction."

Scott said Kidd never approached him during the season about problems with his coaching. He added that the two spoke daily and that they had a good working relationship.

"Unless I hear from Jason, it holds no water as far as I am concerned," said Scott.

"I told them all the same thing, 'I am fine,'" Scott said. "I have always been just as I am now. I have always been on my feet. That's how I am going to continue to be, no matter what." *AP*

NEW Jersey Nets guard Jason Kidd passes around Indiana Pacers forward Al Harrington for one of his eighth assists in this file photo. AP

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US cagers rout Nigeria, advance in Jr world tilt

THESSALONIKI, Greece—De Angelo Alexander scored 13 points to power unbeaten United States over Nigeria 88-68 Saturday to advance to the top-eight group of the World Junior Basketball Championships.

The Nigerians trailed by only two points near the half, but the American defense shut down the fast-paced Nigerians.

The United States moved to 3-0 and advanced to the top-tier group in the second round, which begins Monday. Nigeria fell to 1-2 and will play in the lower-eight group in the 16-team field.

In another game, Sasa Zagorac scored 23 points as Slovenia beat China 87-78. Slovenia, which was up by 22 points in the third quarter, fought off a surge by China (1-3) in the final 10 minutes. Slovenia (2-1) advanced to the top group.

Lithuania crushed Venezuela 108-60 with 1.92-meter (6-foot-3) guard Martynas Mazeika scoring 28 points. Venezuela (1-2) managed only two three-pointers. Lithuania (2-1) advanced to the top group.

Puerto Rico (2-1) joined the top group by defeating Angola 85-71, led by 28 points from guard Jose Barea. Angola (1-2) fell to the lower group.

Unbeaten Croatia (3-0) rolled over Malaysia 110-65 and joined the top group. Malaysia fell to 0-3.

Australia (3-0) also advanced to the top group by beating Korea 124-95 with 2.11-meter (6-foot-9) forward Andrew Bogut scoring 33 points. Korea dropped to 0-3. *AP*

TOURNAMENT leader, South African Ernie Els celebrates after a birdie on the 11th hole on the third day of the Scottish Open at Loch Lomond Golf Club. AFP

Methodical Els pads lead to 5

LUSS, Scotland—Ernie Els stretched his lead to five shots with a third round 67 in the Scottish Open at Loch Lomond Saturday despite stiff challenges from Darren Clarke and Peter O'Malley.

Els methodically wound his way around the 7,095-yard (meter) course to collect five birdies against a single bogey, only his second of the week.

Clarke advanced to joint second place with a 64 to finish level with Phillip Price. Els was on 198, 15 under par, with his closest pursuers on 203.

O'Malley fashioned the best round of the week so far, a nine-under-par 62 in perfect scoring conditions of soft greens and no wind or rain to advance from a tie for 44th place to fourth place on his own on 205.

Ian Poulter of England and Peter Lonard of Australia shared fifth place another shot behind after rounds of 68.

Els refused to think beyond Sunday when he was asked what his performance here was doing for his chances of retaining his British Open title at Royal St. George's next week. *AP*

Battle of Hall of Famers set

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—Juli Inkster shot a 5-under 67 on Saturday in the rain-delayed third round of the Canadian Women's Open for a share of the lead with Beth Daniel.

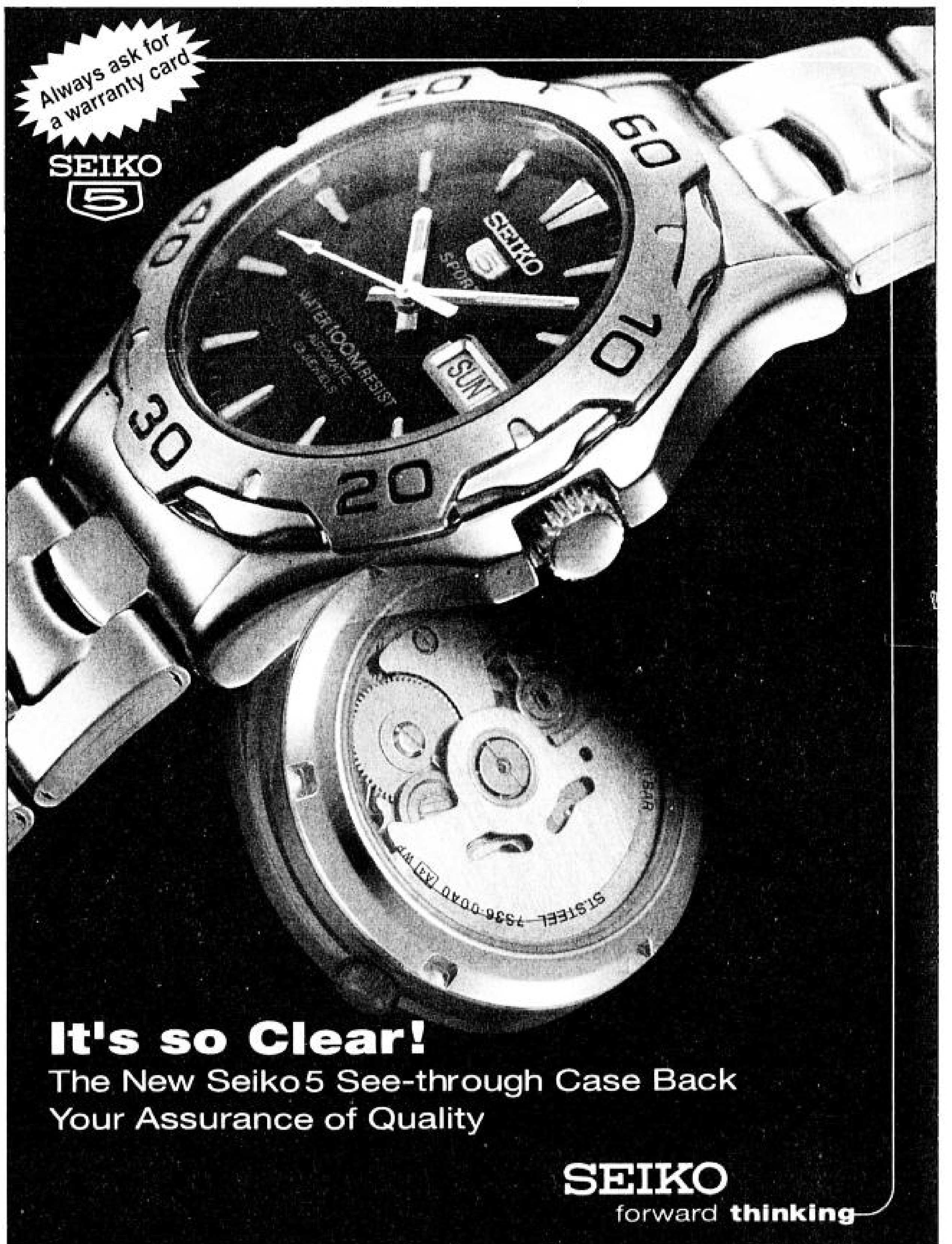
Inkster, who won the Corning Classic in May for her 29th LPGA Tour title, birdied the fourth and fifth holes before the rain started, then came back after a 1-hour, 40-minute delay and immediately sank a lengthy birdie putt on the par-4 sixth. The 43-year-old star added birdies on the par-3 15th and par-5 18th.

Daniel shot her third straight 69 to match Inkster at 9-under 207. Daniel, 46, birdied the second, 11th, and 15th holes—all par 3s. The 23-year LPGA veteran heads into the final round Sunday looking for her 33rd career victory, but first since 1995.

Daniel and Inkster—both LPGA and World Hall of Fame members—were the only two players without a bogey Saturday.

Kim Saiki was three strokes back after a 69.

After a week of warm, sunny weather, the clouds started to roll in Saturday morning and the sky opened up around 3:20 p.m., about and hour after the leaders teed off. Within minutes everyone—and everything—at Point Grey Golf and Country Club was soaked. *AP*



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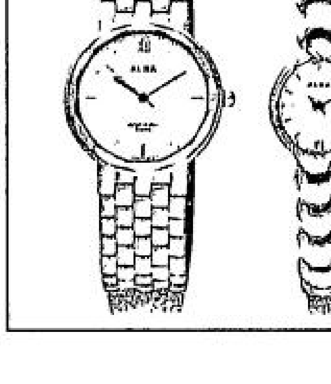

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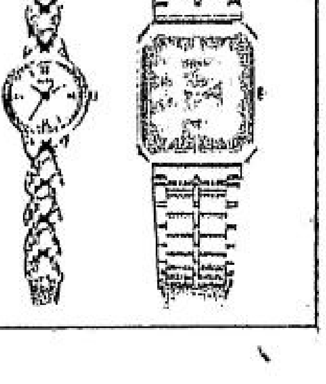


Paragua keeps tie for 2nd with draw

PARAGUA

GRANDMASTER candidate Mark Paragua settled for a draw with Luxemburg grandmaster David Alberto in the eighth round Saturday to remain tied for second to fifth place in the 2003 Championnat de Paris at the Commerce Industrial de Paris in France.

The 19-year-old Paragua (ELO 2500), the Asian zonal runner-up, now has 6 points in a deadlock with Ukarine GM Stanislav Savchenko (2560), Irish GM Amir Bagheri (2500) and IM Todor Todorov (2491) of Bulgaria.

The draw with the Filipino allowed Alberto to keep the solo lead with 6.5 points with one round left.

In the final round Sunday, Alberto and Savchenko will clash on board 1 while Bagheri and Paragua clash on board 2.

Joseph Sanchez, the other Filipino entry and newly IM-elect, went down to Jonathan Dourerassou of France (2202) and dropped to a tie for 19th and 29th places.

With 4.5 points, Sanchez (2410) needs a victory against Fide Master Olivier Simeon of France (2315) to improve his record.

The European campaign of Paragua and Sanchez is being supported by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, the Philippine Sports Commission, Hector Tagaysay of Filway Marketing, distributor of Timelife; Europe-based NM Eric Bacani and Lily Bacani, Col. Rainier Espina of PNP and former NCFP director Boggie Lim.

MONTREAL Expos' Jose Vidro misses the relay throw to first base as the Florida Marlins' Andy Fox slides under him during the sixth inning of their game in Montreal. The Expos won, 7-1. AP

Sosa homerun booms as Cubs end Braves streak

CHICAGO, Illinois—Sammy Sosa's homer launched a six-run fourth inning as the Chicago Cubs ended the eight-game winning streak of the Atlanta Braves with a 7-3 victory on Saturday.

Sósa had two hits and drove in two runs as he continued his hot streak since returning from a suspension for using a corked bat. Since then the Cubs slugger is hitting .344 with 12 homers and 23 RBI, giving him 18 homers and 50 RBI this season.

Sosa now has 517 career homers, four behind Willie McCovey and Ted Williams for 12th spot on the all-time list.

Mark Grudzielanek and Alex Gonzalez both had two hits and drove in a run each. Jose Hernandez had two RBI for Chicago.

Chicago's Matt Clement (7-7), was sharp for eight innings, allowing three runs on five hits with seven strikeouts and no walks to pick up the victory before Joe Borowski pitched a scoreless ninth to complete the six-hitter.

Horacio Ramirez (8-3) went 3 2-3 innings for the loss. He allowed seven runs on nine hits with two strikeouts and one walk. In Phoenix, Barry Bonds hit his major league leading 30th homer of the season as the San Francisco Giants routed Curt Schilling and the Arizona Diamondbacks 8-1.

Bonds hit the 643rd homer of his career and drove in three runs while Ray Durham also homered for the Giants.

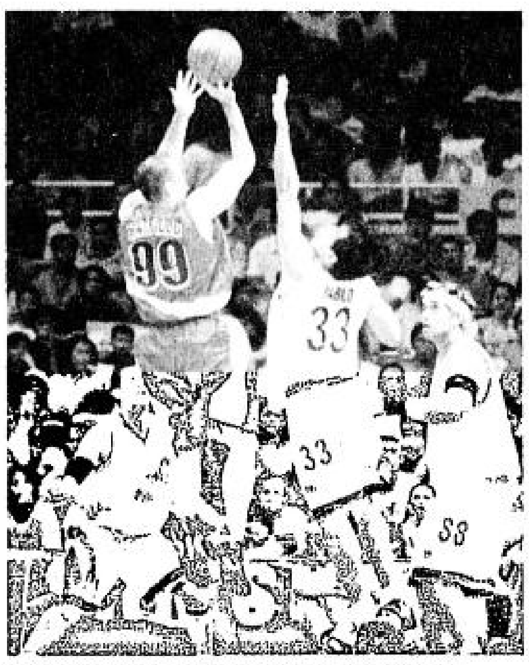
Jerome Williams (5-1) went six innings, allowing one run on two hits with seven strikeouts and three walks.

Schilling (4-4) went six innings in his first start since coming off the disabled list. He allowed five runs, four earned, on six hits with five strikeouts and two walks.

In New York, Placido Polanco's RBI sacrifice fly in the top of the 11th inning was the game winner for the Philadelphia Phillies in their 4-2 victory over the Mets.

Polanco and Todd Pratt both had three hits for the Phillies, while Tyler Houston homered and Jim Thome added two hits and one RBI. Jose Mesa (4-5) got the win with two scoreless innings of relief, allowing one hit. *Reuters*

SIGN OF THE TIMES: Hordes of Talk N' Text fans trooped to the Cuneta


TIGHT defense allowed TNT to crawl back.

TN
on

From page A25

first-ever PBA title. I
came on the eve of
50th birth anniversary

Taulava survived
shooting to lead the P
added 17 and Alapag

Abarrientos was t
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Astrodome to cheer their team to victory. Coach Joel Banal (right) and the Phone Pals did not disappoint. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

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San Miguel not in a hurry to suit up Seigle

By June Navarro

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Without Seigle, the Beermen failed to advance in the All-Filipino Cup Finals twice.

"I guess we have to make do with what we have right now. Except for Danny, all the guys are healthy, I just have to maximize their abilities," said Uichico.

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McBride was the MVP when the United States won last year's Gold Cup, the championship of North and Central America and the Caribbean. Now he is part of a team trying to improve its reputation.

"Pressure is what you perceive it to be," U.S. coach Bruce Arena said of the importance of a good showing after the Confederations Cup. "Certainly, we want to win the Gold Cup." *AP*

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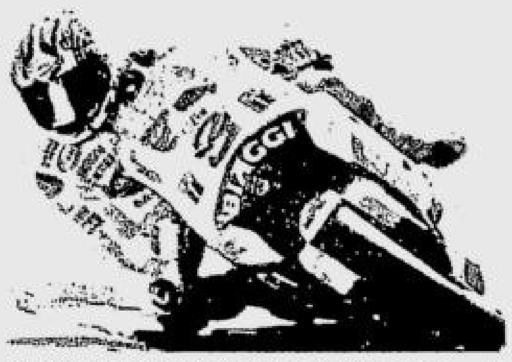

MAX Biaggi powers through in his Honda. AP

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"But I want to be the first Brazilian ever to be a Red—and I know I am going to be." United are reported to have offered Ronaldinho's French club Paris St. Germain a deal worth 18.75 million pounds ($30.70 million) to sign the 23-year-old World Cup-winner, who has already agreed personal terms with the English club.

"Today, Manchester United are one of the three best clubs in the world." Ronaldinho said. "Their squad is so good that I can more or less compare them to the (world champion) Brazilian volleyball team.

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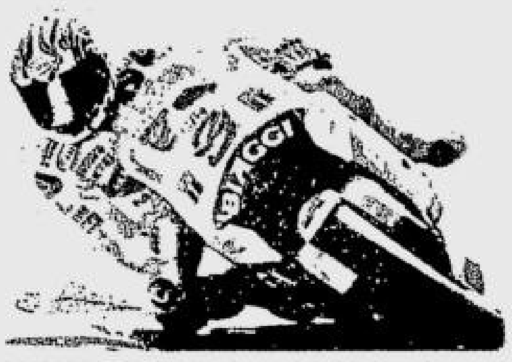

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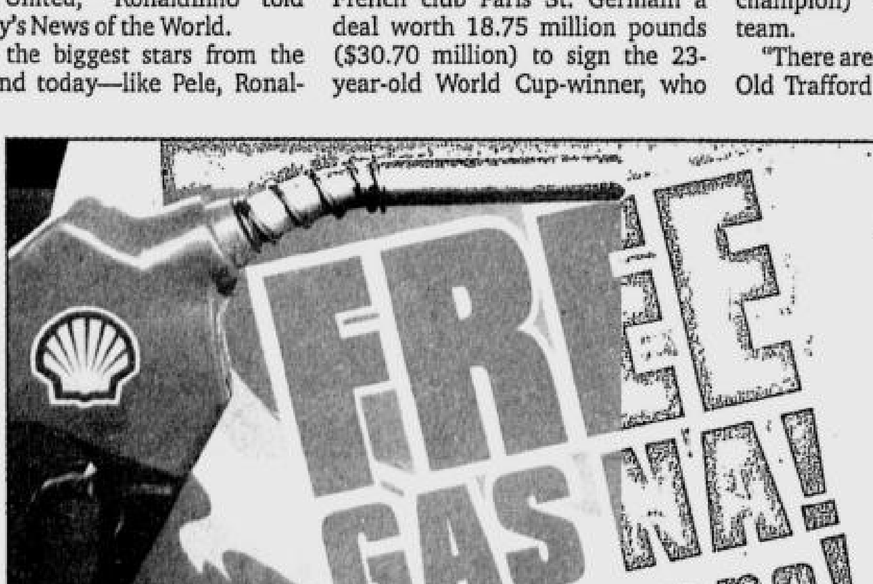

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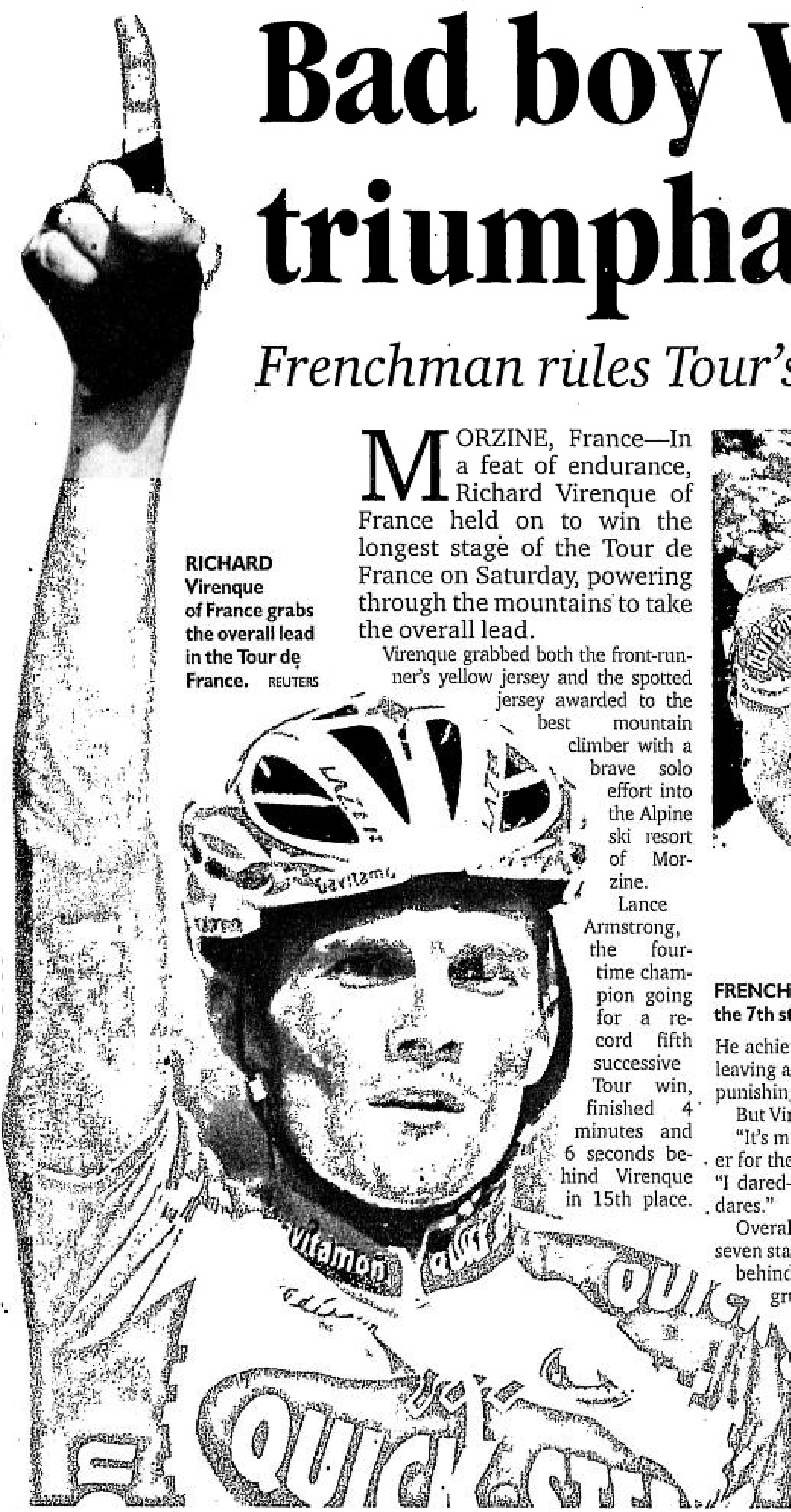
Bad boy Virenque's triumphant return

Frenchman rules Tour's first mountain stage

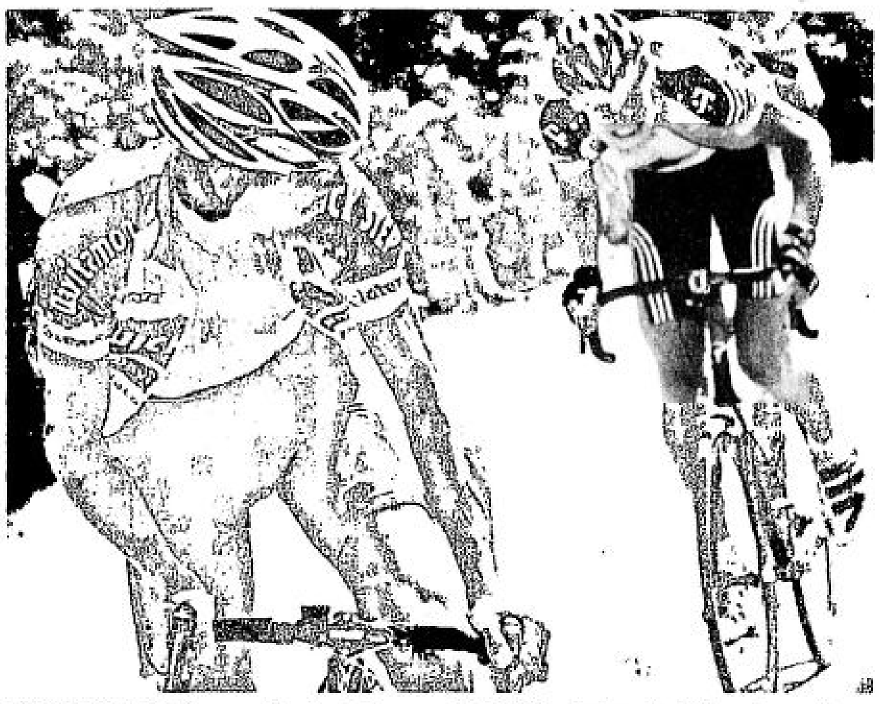


RICHARD Virenque of France grabs the overall lead in the Tour dẹ France. REUTERS

MORZINE, France—In a feat of endurance, Richard Virenque of France held on to win the longest stage of the Tour de France on Saturday, powering through the mountains to take the overall lead.

Virenque grabbed both the front-runner's yellow jersey and the spotted jersey awarded to the best mountain climber with a brave solo effort into the Alpine ski resort of Morzine.

Lance Armstrong, the four-time champion going for a record fifth successive Tour win, finished 4 minutes and 6 seconds behind Virenque in 15th place.



FRENCHMAN Virenque looks at German Rolf Aldag during their breakaway in the 7th stage Saturday. AFP

He achieved one of his goals, however, leaving a couple of rivals behind on the punishing mountain stage from Lyon.

But Virenque was the man of the day.

"It's magic," said the 33-year-old rider for the Quick Step-Davitamon team. "I dared—today was a day for taking dares."

Overall, Armstrong was second after seven stages, 2 minutes and 37 seconds behind Virenque. After Saturday's grueling day, the 31-year-old Texan was girding himself for the next big challenge of the Tour, the monstrous Col du Galibier, which comes Sunday and towers at 2,645 meters (8,728 feet).

"Lance said today was very hard, but we're not worried about the position at the moment. The real test for us is tomorrow, with the Col du Galibier," said Armstrong's spokesperson, Jogi Muller.

"He's very confident about it."

Virenque, the tour's former bad boy, broke away with a small group of riders early in the day and held on, powering over Alpine passes and leaving others in his wake. He raised his arms in victory as he crossed the line at Morzine. Last year, he won the infamous climb up the Mont Ventoux, coming back from a doping ban.

Virenque was a member of the Festina team that was ejected from the 1998 Tour after customs officers found a large stash of banned drugs in a team car.

In a trial that followed, Virenque caused a furor with testimony on systematic drug abuse within his team and cycling in general. *AP*

TENNIS legend Boris Becker of Germany poses with his family. AP

Boom Boom Becker joins Hall of Fame

NEWPORT, Rhode Island—Former world No. 1 Boris Becker of Germany on Saturday became the second-youngest individual to be inducted to the Tennis Hall of Fame.

Francoise "Frankie" Durr of France, American Nancy Richey and Brian Tobin of Australia entered the Hall with Becker.

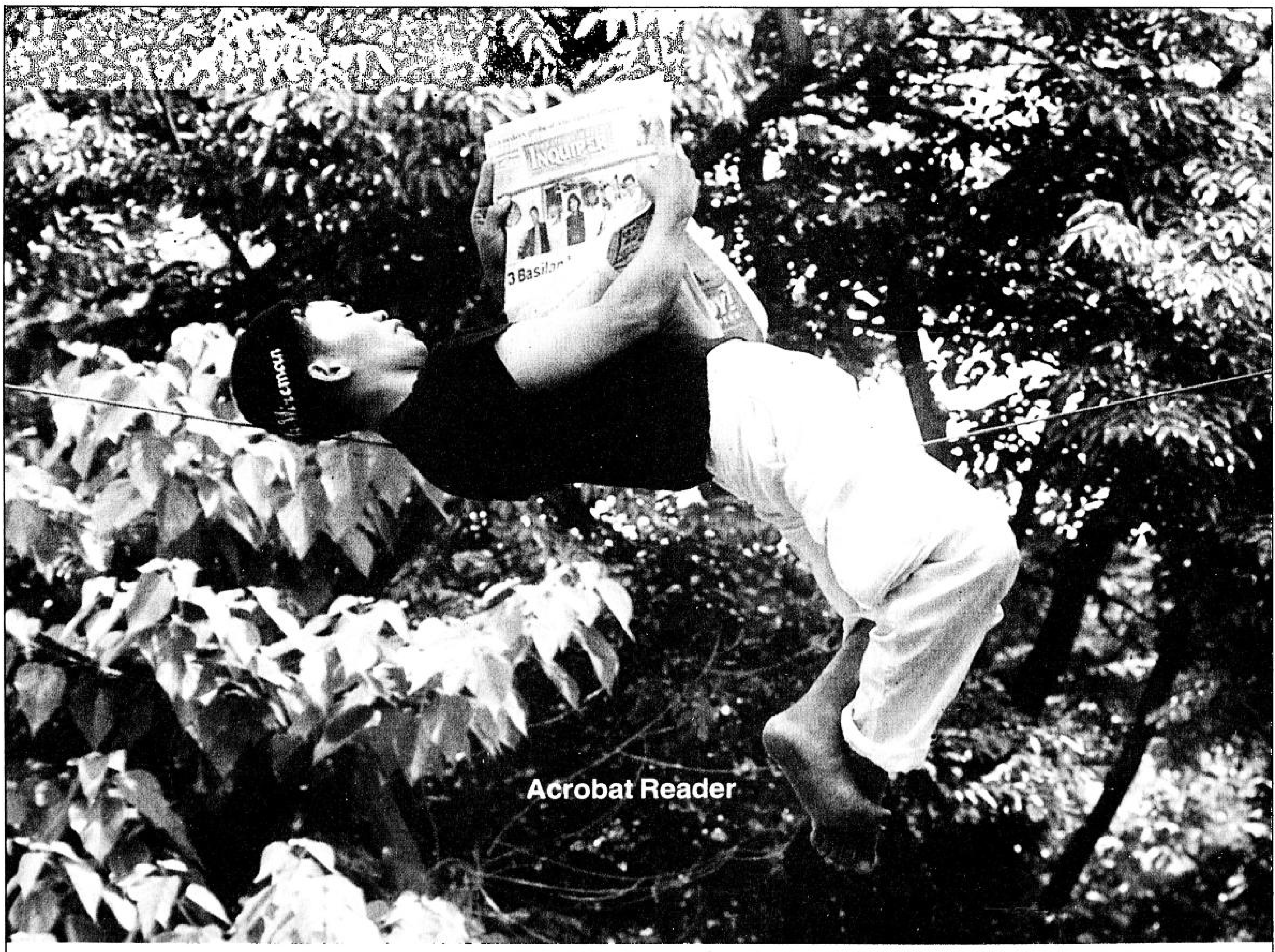
Nicknamed "Boom Boom" for his powerful serves, the 35-year-old Becker won six Grand Slam titles among 49 singles and 15 doubles crowns. He held the world No. 1 ranking for 109 weeks and finished in the top 10 an impressive 11 times in 16 years.

Bjorn Borg was the youngest Hall of Famer, inducted at 31 in 1987.

Becker took the world by storm in 1985. He won Wimbledon at 17 years, 7 months, becoming the youngest male to claim a Grand Slam championship. The German also captured titles at the All-England Club in 1986 and 1989 and reached the final there seven times in 10 years. His other major crowns include the Australian Open in 1991 and 1996 and the US Open in 1989. The French Open was the only Grand Slam that eluded him. *AFP*

Zabaleta shocks Moya

BASTAD, Sweden—Mariano Zabaleta and Nicolas Lapentti set up an all-South American final in the Swedish Open by eliminating the top two seeds Saturday. Zabaleta upset No. 1 Carlos Moya 2-6, 6-3, 6-4, then No. 6 Lapentti ousted No. 2 Tommy Robredo 6-4, 6-2. *AP*



For the past 9 years, the Philippine Daily Inquirer has topped the Asia Research Organization Readership Survey as the No.1 broadsheet in the country. This year, we've done it again, thanks to the faith of our readers, advertisers, dealers, and partners who remain confident in our commitment to public service. We're glad that whatever your reading style, you have made us a part of your life.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

News that makes a difference

Pat on the back

COMMISSIONER Noli Eala of the PBA deserves a pat on the back for being fair and level-headed. According to sources, Eala is about to lift the suspension of Batang Red Bull playmaker Jimwell Torion for drug abuse and allow the 5-foot-9 point guard of the Photokina franchise to see action in the Asian Invitationals which gets going on July 20.

"I am humbled by Commissioner Eala's decision to give me another chance to play in the PBA," said a teary-eyed Torion, son of a fisherman from Argao, Cebu after he was informed of the welcome development. "I will never commit the same mistake again because playing in this league is the only thing I know to help my family." The 28-year-old Torion was sacked after testing positive for shabu last April, admitting that he tried the banned substance while celebrating a team victory with his old friends in Cebu City.

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

Eala said players who commit the kind of mistake which Torion did should not be treated like criminals, "They should be treated as people having drug problems who need our help. I admire Jimwell for his guts in admitting his mistake and his efforts to rehabilitate himself. His actions after that single unfortunate event in his life are very laudable."

Torion, one of the finest point guards in PBA history, recently passed with flying colors a drug addiction and alcohol test at a private out-patient rehabilitation center in Makati City. But more importantly, said Jun Abella, project director of Life Management Foundation, Inc., the rehab center where Torion was admitted on May 7, the Red Bull player has achieved spiritual awakening, developing a strong relationship with God which is the best guarantee and best deterrent to one's craving for drugs, alcohol and other forms of addiction, including gambling.

***

COCKERS TO WATCH. Battle-tested Matt Bitanga and Sons, owners of Golden Circle I, co-champions (with Islander RB of newspaper editor Rey Briones) in the recent World Slasher 8-Cock Derby by scoring seven points, is the team to beat in the forthcoming National Cockers Association "Bakbakan ng mga Kampeon" 7-Stag Derby at the Araneta Coliseum on Sept. 1-3.

"We are preparing hard for the NCA circuit this season," said the 51-year-old Matt Bitanga, whose well-manicured farm is located in Palawan. Now making waves and on a roll, Golden Circle entries posted respectable victories not only in the World Slasher, but also in the other NCA 7-Cock Derbies held earlier this year. Last Jan. 13-15 and March 3-5, Golden Circle scored six winning points at the Big Dome.

A familiar face in derbies held within and outside Metro Manila, Bitanga said they will always be there, fielding in two or more entries not only to continue their winning streak but to enjoy the sport as well.

***

BIG STRIDE FOR DANCING. The Philippines' John Derick Co and Ednah Ledesma, both veteran internationalists, did the country proud recently by winning the silver medal in the senior Latin American category of the recent 78th Blackpool Dance Festival and Competition in England. A total of 73 dance couples, mostly from Europe, took part in the world-class tournament won by Spain, followed by the Philippines, Czech Republic, Finland, Belgium and Italy. Earlier, Co and Ledesma, who have been dancing partners for only three months before campaigning in England, banked on their vast international experience to also win first place in the Blackpool Star Competition, defeating 47 other couples... According to a 21-year-old study of mental breakdown in old age, reading a book and solving a crossword puzzle may stimulate the mind and prevent Alzheimer's disease and other dementia. The study, led by the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City, also took physical exercise into account, but nearly all physical activities from stair climbing to group exercise appeared to offer no protection against mental breakdown except for frequent dancing. Why is this so? Because dance music, according to neurologist Joe Verghese of Einstein College, engages the dancer's mind.

Bobby Pacquiao stakes crown against Abapo

CEBU— Philippine junior lightweight champion Bobby Pacquiao stakes his title against top-rated Bart Abapo on August 30 at the Mandaue City Sports and Cultural Complex here.

Pacquiao, parading a 16-10-2 win-loss-draw record with 7 KO's, is the younger brother of IBF champ Manny. The vastly improved RP champ is coming off a much-publicized second win in three fights against Baby Lorona, Jr.

Abapo, a protege of Cebu sportsman Tony Aldeguer, is unbeaten in 13 fights with 8 KO's. A former national amateur standout, Abapo is Pacquiao's biggest challenge to date.

"I have trained hard for this fight. I'm ready to test Pacquiao's skills," said Abapo.

The challenger has been sparring against the likes of OPBF champ Randy Suico, RP welter champ Dondon Sultan, RP junior welter boss Dindo Castanares.

Pacquiao has not been idle either, even serving as sparring partner for his more illustrious brother in preparation for the August 30 duel. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

STILL CHAMP: Nicaragua's Ricardo Mayorga (right) hits Vernon Forrest of the US during their WBC/WBA welterweight championship fight at the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada yesterday. Mayorga defeated Forrest in a majority decision. GETTY IMAGES

Tyson beat me up, says bodyguard

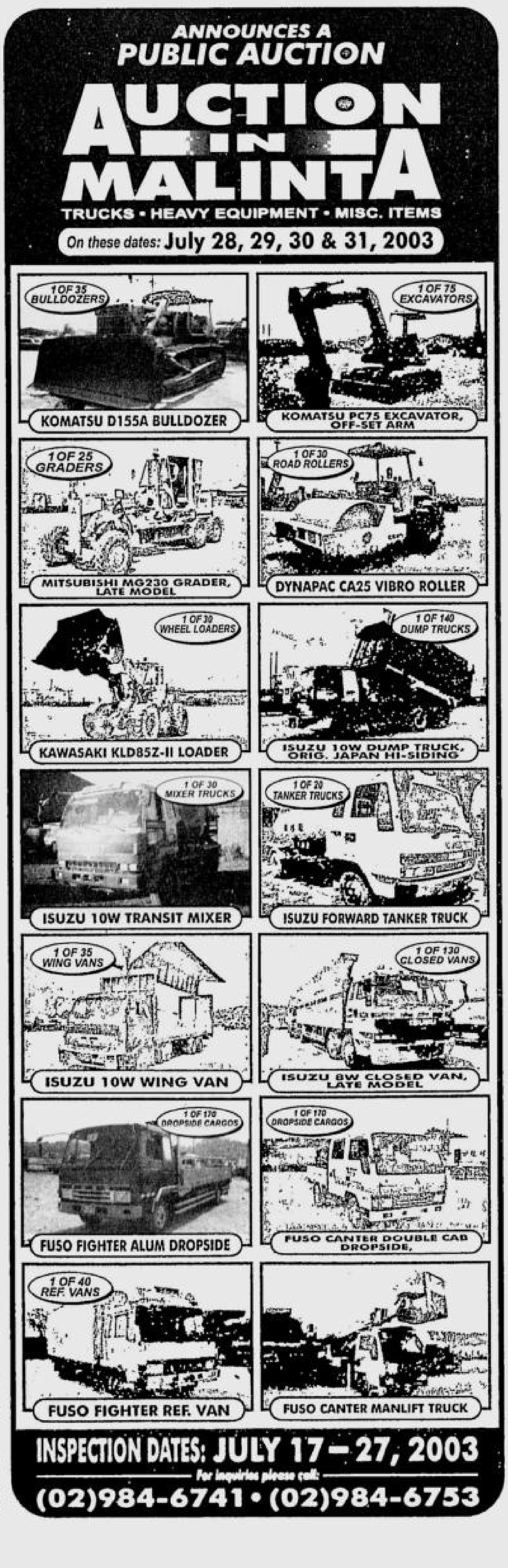
WEST PALM BEACH, Florida —A bodyguard for boxing promoter Don King has sued Mike Tyson, accusing the former heavyweight champ of punching him twice and breaking a bone in his face.

Isadore Bolton, 44, of Boynton Beach, sued Tyson for compensatory damages of more than $15,000, said Bolton's attorney Bob Montgomery.

Tyson, who lives in Las Vegas, couldn't immediately be reached, and his manager, Shelly Finkel, did not return calls Saturday.

According to the lawsuit, Bolton was in a car escorting Tyson along I-95 on May 3 when he realized Tyson's car was no longer following his. He went back and found Tyson standing in the median of the busy interstate.

Tyson, 37, jumped down from the barrier and became "more aggravated and more annoyed" with Bolton. Tyson then punched Bolton twice, tried to drag him out of the car by his feet and Bolton was left with a broken orbital bone above his left eye. *AP*



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Corporate Badminton Cup under way today

ELEVEN teams go into action when the Sporthouse Corporate and Celebrity Cup Invitational Badminton Tournament reels off this afternoon at the Yellow Feather Badminton Center in Libis, Quezon City.

Quezon City Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista, an avid player himself, is the main guest in the opening ceremonies of the tournament—co-presented by Dunlop Slazenger Phils.—that will be played under a unique format.

The tournament moves to the SM Megamall Atrium starting in the quarterfinals.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain will grace the Megamall rites on Thursday.

The event will also feature the Celebrity Cup on Sunday at the Megamall, with movie and television personalities, including Gen. Edgardo Aglipay, vice president of the Philippine Badminton Association, taking part.

Entered in the tournament co-organized by Team Powerplay are the Asian Development Bank, Bingo Bonanza Corp., CB Richard Ellis, Crossover 105.1-Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, Dive Shoppe, Nokia, Philippine Star, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Pioneer-DuPont Chemicals, Philippine National Bank and two squads from Procter and Gamble.

Major sponsors are Quantum Global, Robson-Sportscraft, Ultramax, Lino's Food and Entertainment and Ratsky's. The event also has the support of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Petron Blaze, 105.1 FM Crossover, 92.3 FM Joey, Spurway Enterprises, Bingo Bonanza Corp., Longines, Gatorade, Rudy Project, SM Shoemart, PC Options, Urbanscape Day Spa, Carlton, Picture City, Kontrol, Large Formatix and Pixel-Pro.

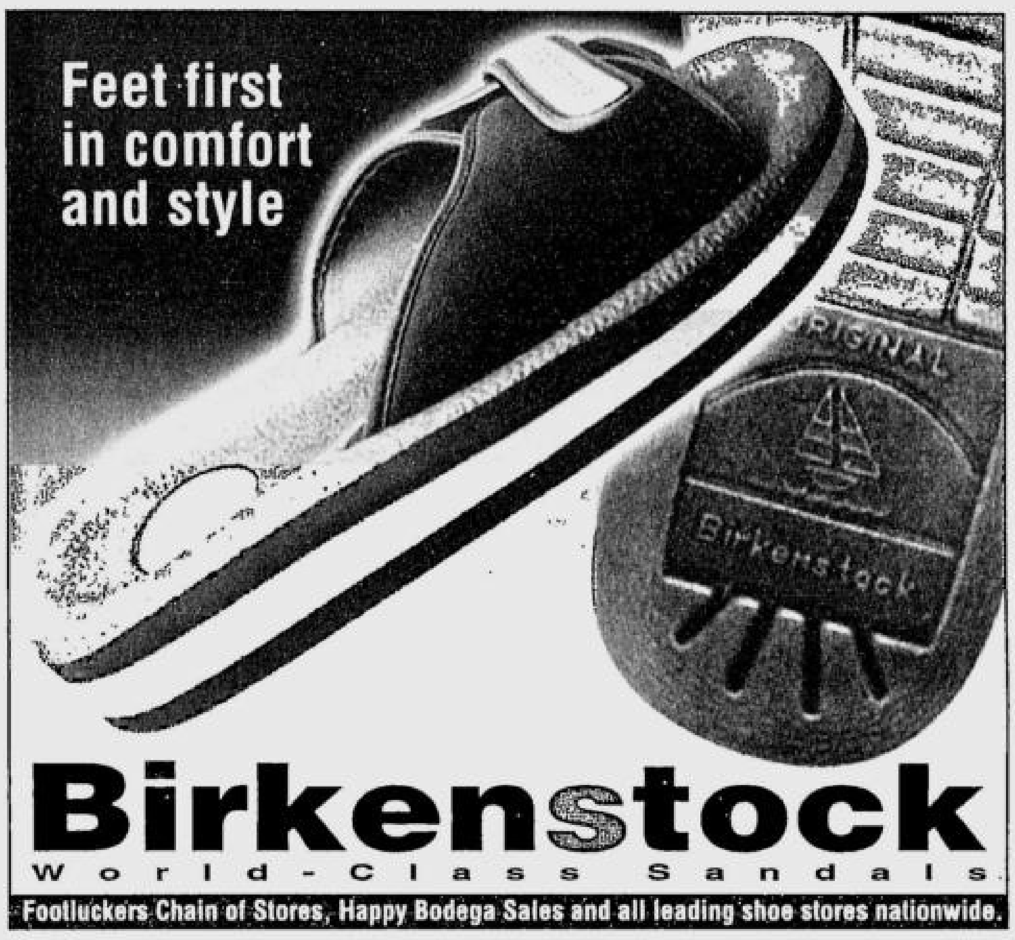
Medina wins 5th world title

GLASGOW, Scotland—Mexico's Manuel Medina won a fifth world featherweight title Saturday night by taking a split decision over WBO champion Scott Harrison at Glasgow's Braehead Arena.

Two judges had Medina the winner of the 12-round fight by the scores of 118-113 and 116-112, while a third judge gave the verdict to Harrison 115-113.

Medina, who held the IBF title on three occasions and had the WBC title once, dropped to his knees in celebration when the verdict was announced.

The 32-year-old Medina, who turned pro at 14, improved his record to 62-13. Harrison, a Scot making his second title defense, fell to 19-2-1. *AP*



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3. Scrape-to-Metal Painting AS LOW AS ₱9,100.00 PER MONTH FOR 6 MONTHS
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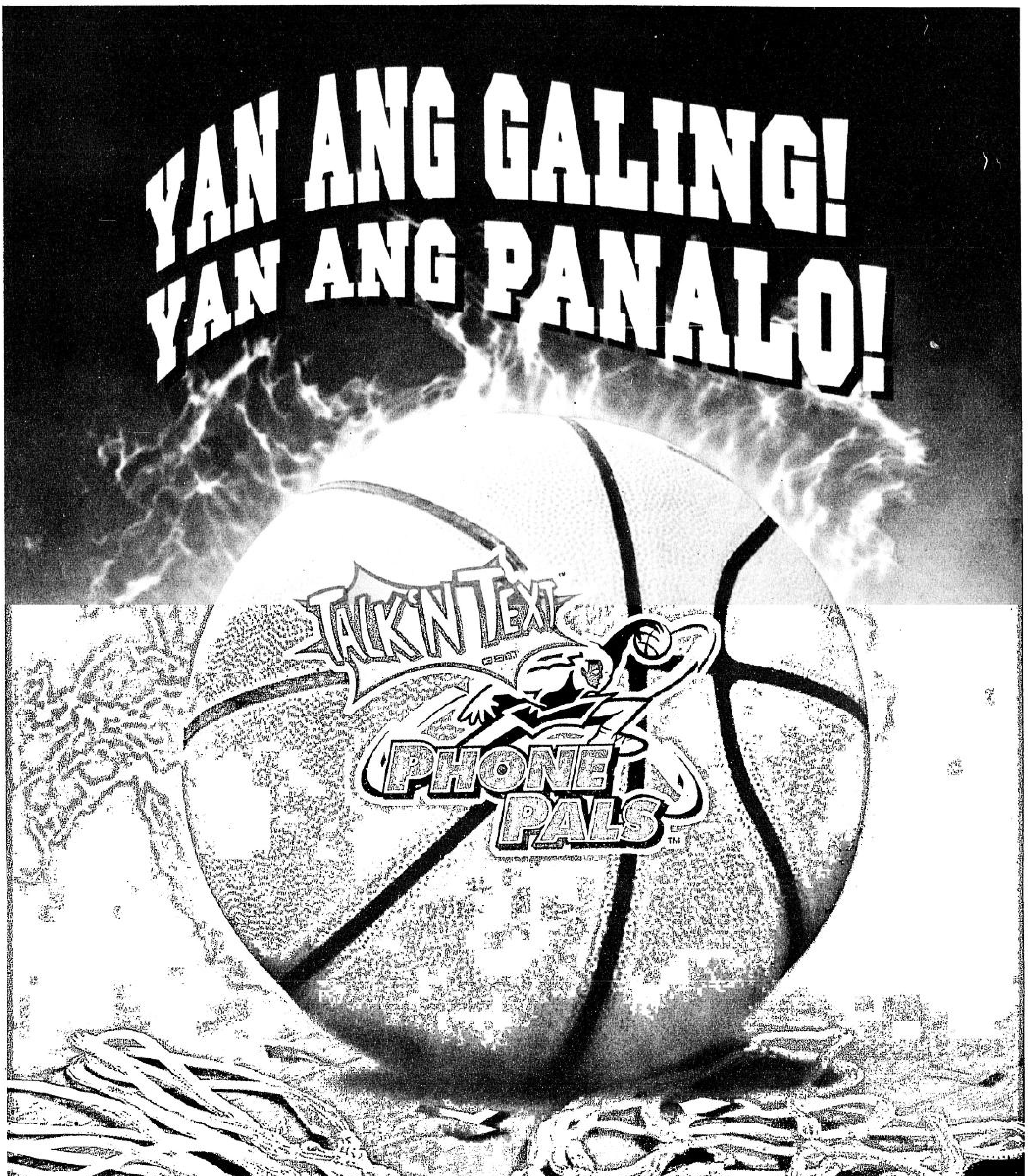
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PCGG readies auction of stakes in 26 companies

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT is set to sell sequestered shares in eight listed companies and 18 privately held companies as part of its privatization program.

Documents from the Presidential Commission on Good Government obtained by the INQUIRER indicated that these shares usually represented minority stakes in the companies.

Among those to be put on the auction block are 8.4 million shares in unlisted Chemfields Inc., which were last appraised to be worth P205 million, and 12,445 shares in Oceanic Wireless Network Inc. estimated to be worth P80.27 million.

The shares in other listed companies are still up for appraisal.

Another item to be privatized is Showa United Foods Inc., where the PCGG holds 157,500 shares representing 50 percent of total equity.

Other unlisted companies whose shares the PCGG will sell are: Earthcore Resources Corp. (11,999 shares); Intercontinental Diversified Corp. (11,404 shares); Investments Unlimited Inc. (425 shares); Imperial Insurance (129,375 shares); Marinduque Mining and Industrial Corp. (1,100 shares); Marcopper (4 million shares); OESCO International Inc. (12,445 shares), and Philippine Oil Geothermal Energy Inc. (800,000 "A" shares and 25.2 million "B" shares).

The PCGG likewise plans to sell 35,000 shares in Port Centre Development Corp.; two shares in Puerto Azul; 468,062 shares in Mirador Resort Hotel; 60,014 shares in Razon International Stevedoring Corp., and 26.9 million "A" shares and 2.83 million "B" shares in Sta. Ines Melale.

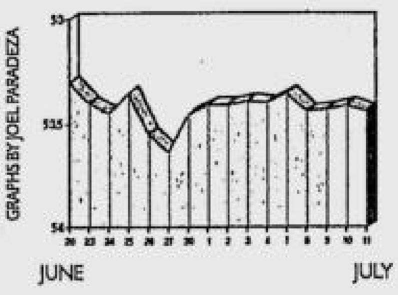
On the other hand, the PCGG plans to sell stocks in the following listed companies: A Soriano Corp. (7.78 million shares); Atlas Consolidated Mining & Development Corp. (253,044 shares); Baguio Gold Holdings (1,811 shares); Benguet Consolidated Inc. (538,197 common "B" shares and 8.55 million preferred "A" shares).

The agency also plans to sell 109.46 million "A" shares and 10.54 million "B" shares in Lepanto Consolidated;; 770,431 "A" shares and 225.08 million "B" shares in Oriental Petroleum; 24.03 million "A" shares in Philodrill Corp.; 1.25 million "A" shares in Philex Mining Corp., and 28,195 shares in Trans-Asia Oil & Mineral Corp.

At current market prices, the PCGG would be able to raise less than P40 million from the sale of shares in the listed companies identified because of the weak stock market. It can raise a lot more from the sale of shares in the unlisted companies.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



GRAPHS BY JOEL PARADEZA

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P53.44 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 11, 2003

¥117.76 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 11, 2003

GOLD: $344.40-344.80

per ounce Hong Kong, July 11, 2003

STOCK MARKET

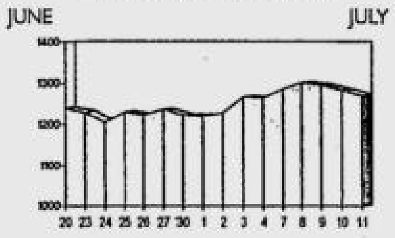
Stocks seen to consolidate

AFTER weeks of bullish performance, local stocks are seen to enter a consolidation phase this week as the main-share index attempts to build a base for another major rally.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index closed at 1,270.77 on Friday

STOCKS/ B6

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

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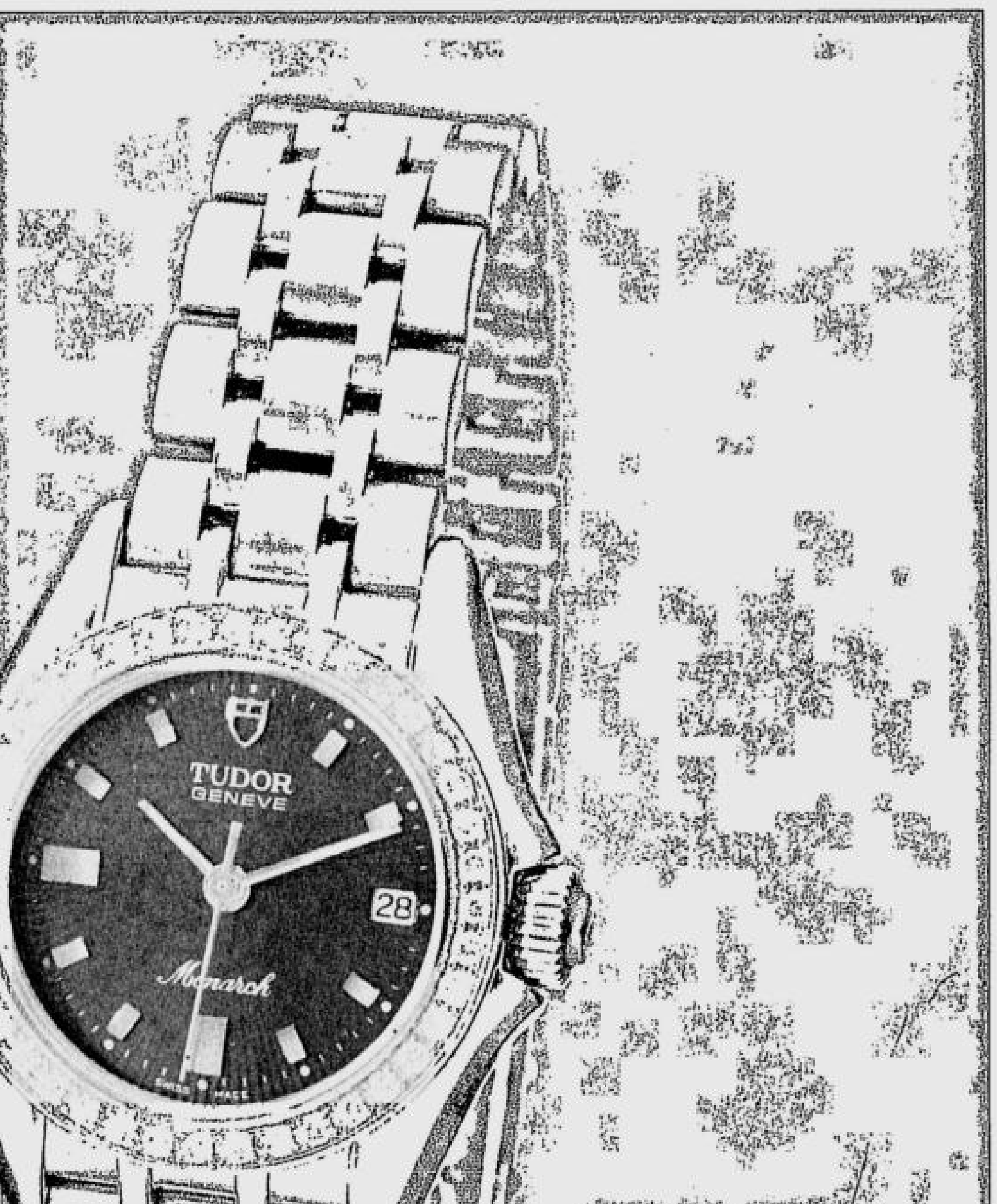
- Level 2, Mega A, SM Megamall

LUCERNE JEWELLERS
- G/F, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center
- Level 2, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
- Level 2, Expansion Mall, Alabang Town Center
- G/F, Ayala Center, Cebu

MULTI-TIME EMPORIUM
- G/F, SM City, North Edsa, Q.C.

WASHINGTON JEWELRY EMPORIUM
- Level 3, Mega B, SM Megamall
- North Mall, Alabang Town Center
- G/F, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center
- G/F, Harrison Plaza

WASHINGTON WATCHES & JEWELRIES
- G/F, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
- Level R1, Power Plant Mall,
  Rockwell Center



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Renegotiation of 35 IPP deals seen done by year's end

By Ronnel
W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy said renegotiation of 35 contracts with independent power producers (IPPs) would be wrapped up by year's end as there remained only four contracts on the table.

Energy Undersecretary Cyril del Callar said the four contracts were those covering the Casecnan multi-purpose irrigation and power project, Enron power plant in Subic, Magellan Cogeneration plant in Cavite and the Edison Cogeneration plant in Bataan.

"So far, the government's inter-agency committee (overseeing the renegotiation) has finished 18 contracts, three of which have been given final approval by the National Economic and Development Authority," Del Callar said.

The official said that the 15 other contracts were undergoing a multi-stage process of approval under the Neda.

"This means that there are 17 more

RENEGOTIATION/B10

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BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTION ACCREDITATION:	MOST EXTENSIVE

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Claims Paid for the year 2002:	P 521,971,575
Claims Payable as of 31 Dec. 2002:	P 9,095,068

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DAY 5
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STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Head Office and Branches)
As of June 19, 2003

ASSETS	AMOUNT
Cash and Cash Items	P 341,298,625.04
Due from Bangko Sentral	1,336,917,174.96
Due from Other Banks	2,544,459,743.71
Trading Account Securities (Net)	10,300,309.69
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	4,208,122,918.85
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)	16,926,666,330.26
Equity Investments (Net)	26,200,000.00
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (Net)	1,494,561,060.68
Other Assets (Net):	
Property Owned/Acquired	1,611,989,126.09
Others	1,176,895,977.33
TOTAL ASSETS	P 29,677,411,266.61
LIABILITIES	
Demand Deposits	P 571,443,165.00
Savings Deposits	19,070,280,584.97
Time Deposits	5,011,873,135.10
Due to Bangko Sentral	13,760,000.00
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders	118,309,701.53
Bills Payable:	
Others	6,280,000.00
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	30,911,930.94
Other Liabilities	631,570,062.24
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P 25,454,426,579.78
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	**AMOUNT**
Capital Stock	P 1,795,015,200.00
Surplus	2,128,731,576.05
Surplus Reserves	299,235,910.78
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 4,222,982,686.83
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 29,677,411,266.61
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	
Bills for Collection	3,141,560.41
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements	1,644,602,440.98
Invested in	
Government Securities	717,001,359.24
Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Share of Stock	5,053,072.42
Other Assets	922,548,009.32
Accountabilities.	
Trust & Other Fiduciary	161,068,595.26
Common Trust Funds	309,774.41
Investment/Fund Management	1,483,224,071.31
Other Contingent Accounts	10,994,536.49
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P 1,658,738,537.88

Additional Information:

1. Deposits of	
a) Government	
b) Banks	18,586,558.57
c) Trust Department	903,525,627.61
2 a. Total Non-Performing Loans	1,310,515,931.75
b. Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets	3,410,814,138.97
c. General Loan Loss Reserve	179,334,651.03
d. Specific Loan Loss Reserve	635,561,445.06
e. Total DOSRI Loans/Advances	2,097,671,926.18
f. Past Due DOSRI Loans Advances	-
g. Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio	7.37%
h. Ratio of Total DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio	11.80%
i. Ratio of Past Due DOSRI to Total Loan Portfolio	
j. Return on Equity	8.53%

Note:
a. Items 3.a. to j. - for Thrift Banks with at least P1 billion resources (Circular No. 208 dated August 17, 1999)
b. Items 3.a. to d - for Thrift Banks listed in the Philippine Stock Exchange (Circular No. 157 dated March 19, 1998)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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We, NOLI S. GOMEZ and PASCUAL M. GARCIA III of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

NOLI S. GOMEZ
First Vice - President

PASCUAL M. GARCIA III
President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 09 July 2003 at City of Makati, affiant exhibiting to me their Community Tax Certificates No 132080602 issued at Manila on January 15, 2003 and No 154886212 issued at Quezon City on January 28, 2003.

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Notary Public
Until December 31, 2004
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Page No CXXIV
Series of 2003

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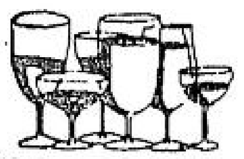
Senior Vice President

Warehouse sale

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

PRICESMART Ortigas is on sale.

We mean the warehouse building, not the thousands of merchandise in it.

According to the grapevine, PriceSmart partner William Go has placed the barely two-year old, purpose-built warehouse on the bloc with the scheduled Aug. 3 closure of the PriceSmart outlet.

Despite or most probably because of the choking vehicular traffic, not to mention that that portion of Ortigas Avenue floods, the Ortigas branch has been found "not conducive to the successful operation of a PriceSmart warehouse" ever since it opened for business in November 2001.

Still, PriceSmart has no plans of holding a close-out sale to move the merchandise. Any unsold, non-perishable merchandise of the Ortigas branch will be transferred to the new branch in the Parañaque reclaimed area, which is due to open in November.

The impending closure of PriceSmart deals a serious marketing blow to DM Consunji's East Ortigas Mansions, a cluster of new townhouses built behind the warehouse club. DM Consunji's main selling point for the townhouses is that owners can just walk to the supermarket, part of a gated compound with good prospects of real estate appreciation.

Incidentally, DM Consunji also owns the land where the PriceSmart warehouse is built, with PriceSmart holding a 25-year-lease from the landlord.

Despite the continuing weakness of the peso, the San Diego headquarters of PriceSmart plans to increase US-sourced products in the local stores, apparently to keep its "stateside flavor."

From Malacañang to Port Area

TIRED of tending the Malacañang freezers because of his Dante Ang ties, Press Undersecretary Roberto Capco is now said to be lobbying for his appointment as chair of the sequestered Journal Group of publications.

There is a hitch, though. There is no vacancy in the Journal, with the chair's office still being occupied by veteran newsman Teddy Berbano.

Assuming that Capco could prevail on the so-called "Pogi" of Malacañang to make space for him over at the sequestered paper, that putative appointment would again place Capco on collision course with Journal CEO Bobby de la Cruz ever since the two spontaneously combusted at the National Press Club.

Fore!

FEARING a backlash on his bank, Export and Industry Bank chair Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr. sent a copy of the speech he delivered before the Erap-dominated Rotary Club of Manila to clarify that his anti-government blast was not specifically directed at Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, as was reported here Friday, but against what he claimed was the government's continuing lack of fiscal support for the export sector.

Specifically, Ortiz-Luis, who also happens to head the Philippine Exporters Confederation, asked for the abolition of the pork barrel system and that the billions saved instead channeled into an export development/promotion fund and to the trade offices abroad.

Between agricultural/military attaches and trade attaches, Ortiz-Luis' choice is quite obvious.

"Of course, they all come back with very low golf handicaps," he said.

ASB's fortune

ASB receiver Fortunato Cruz, who wants to keep his multimillion-peso hold on the moribund ASB Realty despite an SEC order to give way to a new appointee, said he sued the Securities and Exchange Commission "to clear his reputation."

Cruz said he did not like the SEC order replacing him for saying he "placed his personal interests over his fiduciary duties," without the SEC going into specifics. (See Cocktales, July 11, 2003, for background.)

Cruz was to have been replaced by CPA-lawyer Rosario Bernaldo, who is willing to work for P50,000/month, instead of the P250,000/month that Cruz has been receiving for the past three years.

Cruz claimed that his fee was not excessive and that, moreover, the figure had been cleared with the SEC prior to his appointment.

Meanwhile, believing that a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush, a number of the more 700 unsecured creditors of ASB

COCKTALES/ B6

PLDT's 6-month profit seen at ₱6B

By Abigail L. Ho

DOMINANT carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. is seen to post a net income of more than P6 billion for the first half of the year, even exceeding its P5-billion profit projection for the period.

Company officials disclosed on Saturday that the continued strong performance of cellular subsidiary Smart Communications Inc. fueled growth for the PLDT group during the first six months of the year.

"Smart Communications is projected to post a net income of more than P5.75 billion for the first half of 2003," a company source said.

Last year, PLDT generated profits worth P2.8 billion in the January-to-June period despite issues it faced on the shareholder level because of the Gokongwei group's takeover attempt on the company.

Smart's net income during the same period last year hit P2.4 billion.

With PLDT's expected strong showing during the first half, a company source said management was now evaluating the possibility of provisioning and writing off more nonperforming assets to further strengthen its

PLDT'S/ B10

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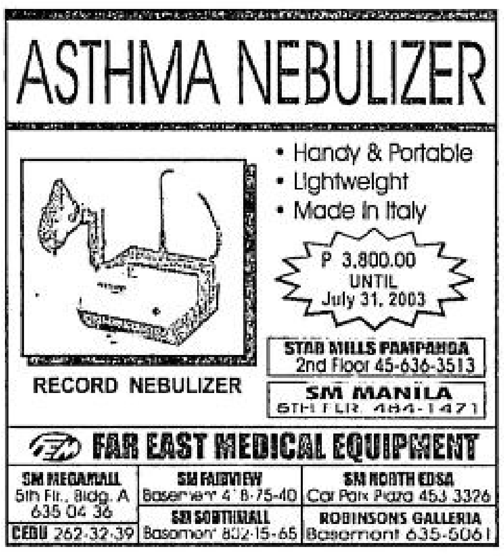

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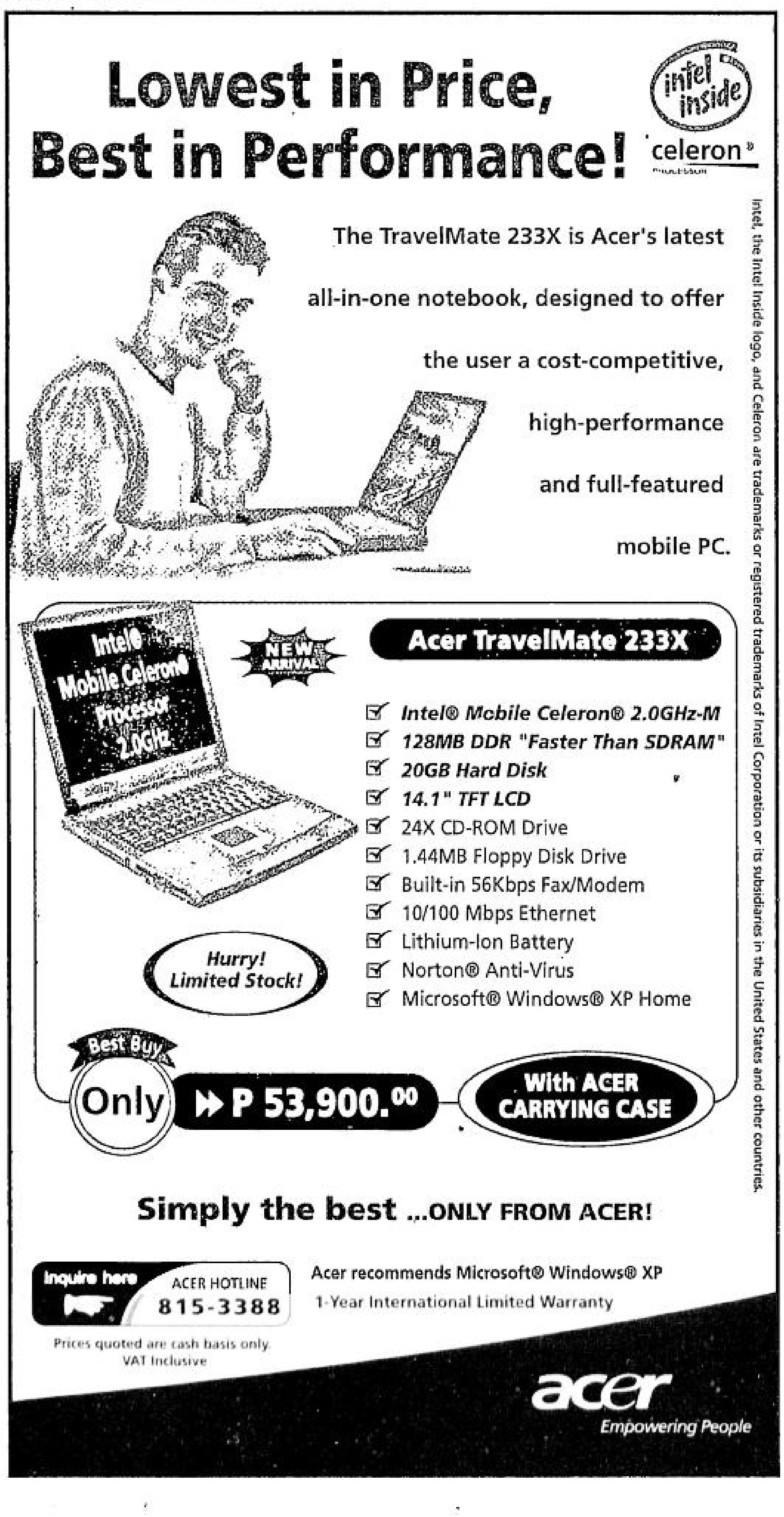

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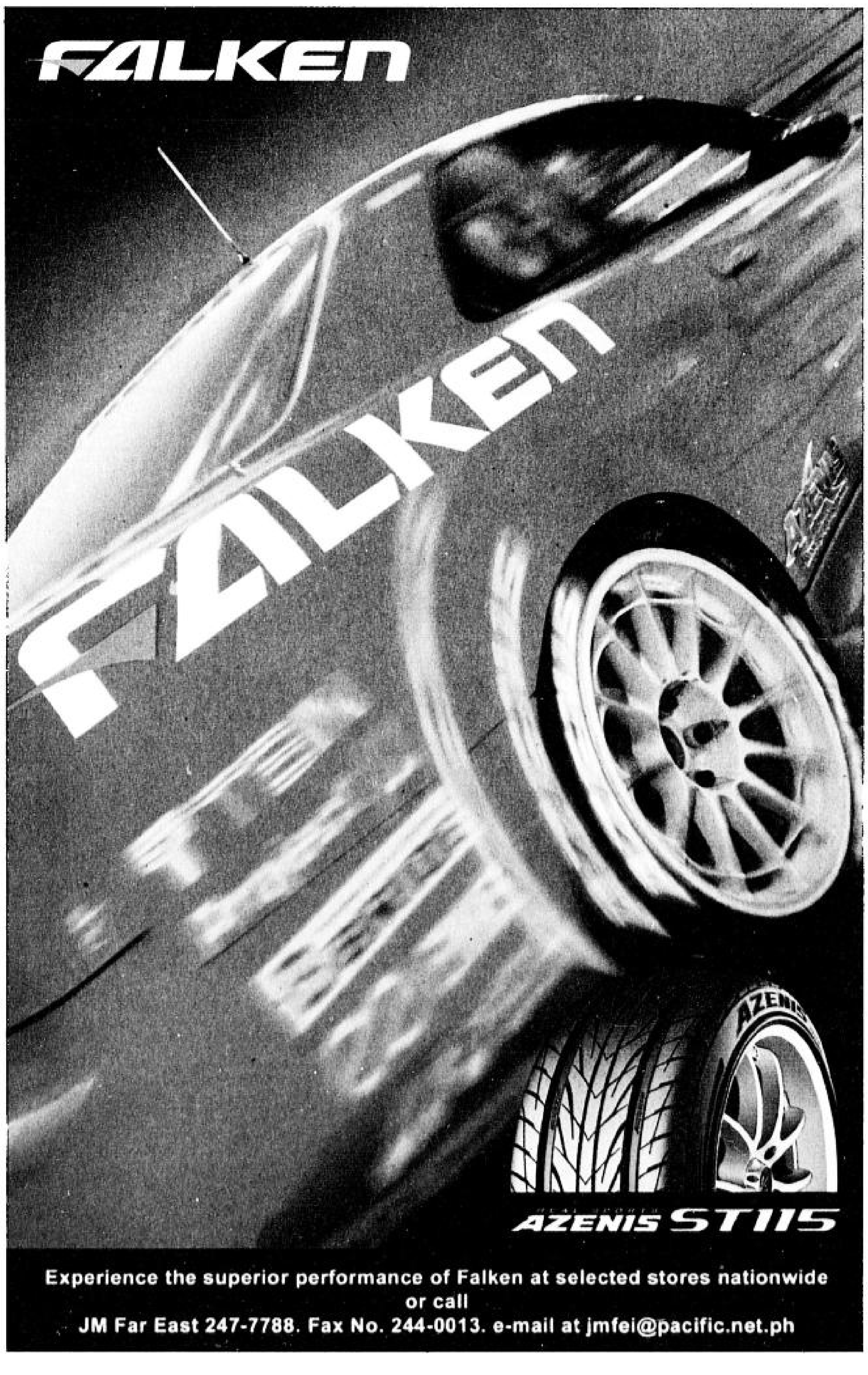

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Influx of imported shoes threatens local makers

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has started an inquiry into the reported influx of imported shoes, mostly coming from China, which is feared to result in the demise of the local shoe industry.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II said, the Bureau of Import Services of the Department of Trade and Industry had started to take measures to abate the alleged influx of smuggled shoes into the country.

"The BIS is coordinating with the Bureau of Customs valuation team to ensure that there is proper valuation of imported shoes," said Roxas in a statement.

Key players in the local shoe industry recently appealed to the government to step into the issue and address the import surge as well as the smuggling of shoes that directly compete with locally manufactured products.

The Samahan ng Magsasapatos ng Pilipinas specifically asked the government to impose protective measures against imports. It also called on the government to put a stop on smuggling.

The group claimed that the problems on smuggling and import surge were bleeding the local shoe industry dry. It added that these problems, if not immediately addressed, would cause the collapse of the local industry.

"We want to make sure that the competitiveness of our domestic shoe industry will not be jeopardized in any way by the influx of imported shoes," said Roxas.

Roxas also encouraged the local manufacturers of shoes to formalize their complaints by filing charges against the alleged mislabeling of imported shoes.

"The shoe manufacturers should file their complaint with the DTI-NCR so that we may be able to conduct a proper investigation for possible violations of the Consumer Act," he said.

RA 7394 or the Consumer Act provides that labels of imported items must state their countries of origin. The measure is aimed at ensuring the accurate valuation of foreign products entering the country.

Local manufacturers of shoes have also asked the BOC to strictly enforce Customs Memorandum Order 46-94 or the guidelines in the description of articles to avoid misclassification of shoes. They claimed there had been instances of misclassification of shoes, which resulted in the imposition of improper amount of duties.

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STATEMENT OF CONDITION

(Head Office and Branches)
As of June 19, 2003

ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Items	P	4,560,638,075
Due from Bangko Sentral		13,396,933,061
Due from Other Banks		2,291,342,722
Interbank Loans Receivable		9,766,265,145
Trading Account Securities (Net)		372,521,231
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		84,850,251,281
Loans, Discounts and Advances (Net)		121,842,658,201
Underwriting Accounts (Net)		110,618,066
Equity Investments (Net)		5,998,579,961
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		4,804,804,672
Other Assets (Net)		
Property Owned/Acquired		13,871,400,698
Others		9,688,787,733
TOTAL ASSETS	P	271,554,800,846
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	74,997,355,419
Savings Deposits		105,859,337,930
Time Deposits		18,110,548,488
Special/Other Deposits		1,609,636,216
Due to Bangko Sentral		120,239,134
Due to Banks		257,867,474
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		1,851,618,526
Bills Payable		
BSP-Rediscounting/Special Programs		820,594,744
Deposits Substitutes		237,058,512
Others		30,010,011,609
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		3,148,543,084
Other Liabilities		12,394,267,234
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	249,417,078,370
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	10,200,000,000
Surplus		7,275,896,747
Surplus Reserves		4,165,412,077
Other Capital Accounts		496,413,652
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		22,137,722,476
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	271,554,800,846
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	6,070,010,640
Bills for Collection		842,107,408
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		11,955,456,483
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		(1,518,448,384)
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements		
Invested in		
- Government Securities		6,747,762,459
- Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stocks		39,933,049
- Loans and Discounts		1,490,126,944
- Other Assets		3,164,144,000
Accountabilities		
- Trust and Other Fiduciary		1,630,884,321
- Common Trust Funds		2,589,326,498
- Investment/Fund Management		7,221,755,633
Other Contingent Accounts		31,331,452,433
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	60,122,545,032

Other Information

1	Deposits of:		
	a. Government	P	128,585,023,586
	b. Banks		5,320,460,850
	c. Trust Department		158,232,451
2	Compliance with Magna Carta Law:		
	a. Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 6% (Small Enterprises)		14.89%
	b. Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 2% (Medium Enterprises)		5.42%
3	Amount of Non-Performing Loans		24,336,202,855*
4	Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio		16.45 %
5	Amount of Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets		50,598,609,263
6	General Provision for Loan Losses		1,247,692,722
7	Specific Provision for Loan Losses		15,059,549,695
8	Return on Equity (ROE)		11.02%
9	Amount of DOSRI Loans/Advances		2,083,502,958
10.	Ratio of DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio		1.41%
11.	Amount of Past Due DOSRI Loans/Advances		17,996

** Includes Loans Classified as 'Loss' which are fully covered by Allowance for Probable Losses amounting to P2,891,838,597.14*

We, CORAZON S. DELOS SANTOS and MARGARITO B. TEVES of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above Statement of Condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Sgd. CORAZON S. DELOS SANTOS
SVP-Operations Sector

Sgd. MARGARITO B. TEVES
President and CEO

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 9th day of July 2003 in the City of Manila, affiants exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No. 12722283, issued in Manila on January 13, 2003 and Residence Certificate No. 12722279 issued in the City of Manila on January 14, 2003.

Doc. No. 430
Page No. 87
Book No. I
Series of 2003

REYNAULD R. VILLAFUERTE
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2004
PTR No. 1911804
Issued on January 16,2003
Manila

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION

(Bank and Financial Subsidiaries)
As of June 19, 2003

ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Items	P	4,561,836,161
Due from Bangko Sentral		13,396,933,061
Due from Other Banks		2,391,820,365
Interbank Loans Receivable		9,766,265,145
Trading Account Securities (Net)		372,521,231
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		84,949,397,267
Loans, Discounts and Advances (Net)		121,768,666,918
Underwriting Accounts (Net)		110,618,066
Equity Investments (Net)		5,125,755,241
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		4,907,053,011
Other Assets (Net)		
Property Owned/Acquired		13,890,741,059
Others		10,773,554,008
TOTAL ASSETS	P	272,015,161,533
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	74,989,515,612
Savings Deposits		105,848,314,793
Time Deposits		18,110,548,488
Special/Other Deposits		1,609,636,216
Due to Bangko Sentral		120,239,134
Due to Banks		257,867,474
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		1,864,290,190
Bills Payable		
BSP-Rediscounting/Special Programs		820,594,744
Deposits Substitutes		237,058,512
Others		30,010,011,609
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		3,606,550,401
Other Liabilities		12,407,438,137
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	249,882,065,310
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	10,200,000,000
Surplus		7,156,933,872
Surplus Reserves		4,279,748,700
Other Capital Accounts		496,413,651
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		22,133,096,223
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	272,015,161,533
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	6,070,010,640
Bills for Collection		842,107,408
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		11,955,456,483
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		(1,518,440,384)
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements		
Invested in		
- Government Securities		6,747,762,459
- Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stocks		39,933,049
- Loans and Discounts		1,490,126,944
- Other Assets		3,164,144,000
Accountabilities		
- Trust and Other Fiduciary		1,630,884,321
- Common Trust Funds		2,589,326,498
- Investment/Fund Management		7,221,755,633
Other Contingent Accounts		31,331,452,433
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	60,122,545,032

Other Information

1.	Deposits of:		
	a. Government	P	128,585,023,586
	b. Banks		5,320,460,850
	c. Trust Department		158,232,451
2.	List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries		
	a. LBP Leasing Corporation		
	b. LBP Financial Services, SPA		
	c. LBP Remittance Co., USA		

We, CORAZON S. DELOS SANTOS and MARGARITO B. TEVES of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above Statement of Condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Sgd. CORAZON S. DELOS SANTOS
SVP-Operations Sector

Sgd. MARGARITO B. TEVES
President and CEO

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 9th day of July 2003 in the City of Manila, affiants exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No. 12722283, issued in Manila on January 13, 2003 and Residence Certificate No. 12722279 issued in the City of Manila on January 14, 2003.

Doc. No. 429
Page No. 87
Book No. I
Series of 2003

REYNAULD R. VILLAFUERTE
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PTR No. 1911804
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The sum of our years

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

ALMOST four years ago, Pope John Paul II wrote a letter to the elderly. I read it only last week when my daughter Clarissa brought home a copy of the pamphlet. Paulines Publishing House of the Daughters of Saint Paul holds the copyright. With their kind permission, I am quoting extensively from the pamphlet.

The letter opens with Psalm 90:10, "Seventy is the sum of our years, / or eighty if we are strong, / and most of them are fruitless toil, / for they pass quickly and we drift away."

Then, Pope John Paul II starts, "Seventy years was an advanced age when the Psalmist wrote these words, and few people lived beyond it. Nowadays, thanks to medical progress and improved social and economic conditions, life expectancy has increased significantly in many parts of the world. Still, it remains true that the years pass quickly, and the gifts of life, for all the effort and pain it involves, is too beautiful and precious for us ever to grow tired of it.

"As an older person myself, I have felt the desire to engage in a conversation with you. I do so first of all by thanking God for the gifts and the opportunities, which he has abundantly bestowed me up to now. In my memory, I recall the stages of my life, which is bound up with the history of much of this century, and I see before me the faces of countless people, some particularly dear to me: they remind of ordinary and extraordinary events, of happy times and of situations touched by suffering. Above all else, though, I see outstretched the provident and merciful hand of God the Father, who 'cares in the best way possible' and 'hears us whenever we ask for anything according to his will.' (1Jn 5:14)

"My thoughts turn with affection to all of you, dear elderly people of all languages and cultures... In this letter I wish simply to express my spiritual closeness to you as someone who, with the passing of years, has come to a deeper personal understanding of this phase of life and consequently feels a need for closer contact with other people of his own age, so that we can reflect together on the things we have in common. I place all this before the eyes of God who embraces us with his love and who sustains us and guides us by his providence."

Then, Pope John Paul II writes, and this is the best part of the letter, about the elderly in the Sacred Scripture: "...Old age is so highly esteemed that long life is seen as a sign of divine favor (Gen. 11:10-32). In the case of Abraham, in whom the privilege of old age is stressed, this favor takes the form of a promise: 'I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great.' At Abraham's side is Sarah, a woman who sees her body growing old, yet experiences within the limitations of her aging flesh the power of God who makes good every human shortcoming.

"Moses too was an old man when God entrusted him with the mission of leading the chosen people out of Egypt. It was not in his youth but in his old age that, at the Lord's command, he did might deeds on behalf of Israel. Among other examples of elderly people in the Bible, I would mention Tobit, who humbly and courageously resolved to keep God's law, to help the needy and to endure blindness patiently, until the angel of God set his situation straight. There is also Eleazar, whose martyrdom bore witness to an exceptional generosity and strength.

"The New Testament, filled with the light of Christ, also contains eloquent examples of elderly people. The Gospel of Luke begins by introducing a married couple 'advanced in years': Elizabeth and Zechariah, the parents of John the Baptist. The Lord's mercy reaches out to them. Zechariah, already an old man, is told that a son will be born to him.

"In the Temple of Jerusalem, Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to offer him to the Lord, or rather, in accordance with the Law, to redeem him as their first-born son. There they meet the aged Simeon, who had long awaited the Messiah. At Simeon's side we find Anna, a widow of eighty-four, a frequent visitor to the Temple, who now has the joy of seeing Jesus.

"Nicodemus too, a highly regarded member of the Sanhedrin, was an elderly man. He visited Jesus by night in order not to be seen. Nicodemus appears again at the burial of Jesus, when, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, he overcomes his fear and shows himself a disciple of the Crucified Lord.

"How reassuring are these examples! They remind us that at every stage of life the Lord can ask each of us to contribute what talents we have. The service of the Gospel has nothing to do with age!"

The letter is too long to be covered in this column. As an elderly myself, every time I read it, I find something new that makes me feel good. If you are seventy or over, buy a copy.. Considering what you will get out of the letter, P45 is dirt-cheap.

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SHANE WEAVER
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SMC earmarks P15B for Davao dev't plan

DAVAO CITY—Food and beverage conglomerate San Miguel Corp. (SMC) is pouring P15 billion in funds to finance the transformation of Davao del Sur into a highly agri-industrialized area.

SMC chair Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. owns and manages several agricultural plantations in the province, including the Hacienda San Miguel in Malita town and the former Cocoa Investors Inc. (CII) in Hagonoy and Santa Maria towns.

A San Miguel brewery plant also operates in Sta. Cruz town.

Rep. Douglas Cagas, a Cojuangco ally in the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC), said the SMC program, dubbed Pro-Aid, is part of the company's thrust to help Davao del Sur become one of the country's agri-capitals.

Cagas said the memorandum of agreement for the project was to be signed by Cojuangco and Davao del Sur officials led by Gov. Benjamin Joseph Bautista Jr. earlier this month but the SMC chair failed to show up.

Marivic Flores-Hubac, provincial information officer, said SMC allocated at least P9 billion to finance the first phase of the project.

She said the funds would be lent to farmers who previously had difficulty in accessing capital to finance their crop production and the marketing of their produce.

The targets of the Pro-Aid project are farmers who produce cassava, soybeans, yellow corn and are engaged in livestock and poultry breeding and aquaculture.

Bautista said Davao del Sur deserves to be identified as one of the key growth areas of the country. *Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

DOF wants franchise, income taxes slapped on all airlines

By Clarissa S. Batino

CAMACHO

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is urging Congress to revoke the favorable tax treatment given to Philippine Airlines and to subject all domestic carriers to both income and franchise taxes to maximize the government's revenue collection.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said that instead of granting local airlines different tax privileges depending on the franchise they got, Congress must level the playing field and apply equal tax treatment on all players.

Flag carrier PAL's charter gives the airline the option to choose between paying the income tax or the franchise tax.

No other Philippine airline enjoys this privilege. PAL is owned and controlled by taipan Lucio Tan, who also partly owns Air Philippines.

"We want Congress to address the problem of unequal tax treatment by subjecting all local airlines to pay both the income and franchise taxes instead of extending the privilege to all industry players," Camacho said in an interview.

An "ipso facto" clause is usually provided in the franchise given to airline firms.

The clause states that "where a competing entity receives tax privileges and other favorable terms that put a particular carrier at a disadvantage, such privileges shall be deemed "ipso facto" or part of the grantee's franchise and shall likewise operate in its favor."

"We raise our apprehension over the implication of the 'ipso facto' clause due to the fact that while the bill will effectively equalize the treatment on Air Philippines and Cebu Air, PAL is taxed in a different and apparently, favorable manner," said the DOF in a position paper submitted to Congress.

Congress sought the DOF's opinion on the franchise of Air Philippines in line with the ongoing hearings on the matter.

The finance chief was worried that if Cebu Air and Air Philippines would invoke the "ipso facto" clause, it would render meaningless any reform to equalize the tax treatment.

"We strongly recommend the rationalization of the tax treatment on domestic airlines. All domestic airlines should be subject to both income and franchise taxes," said the DOF.

Aside from the distortions and unequal business environment created by these inconsistencies, he said any preferential position accorded to a particular company would not send the right signal to prospective investors who were looking for a healthy and competitive environment.

Camacho added that taxing "similarly situated" entities was essential in promoting a level playing field.

Finance, BIR considering new auto tax rules

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance and the Bureau of Internal Revenue are considering coming up with a new tax regulation on 10-seater vehicles that will plug loopholes but still give the assemblers flexibility in availing themselves of exemptions.

Among the options open to the government now are the drafting of a new regulation, the issuance of RR 4-2003, the adoption of a tighter regulation on 10-seaters which was scheduled for implementation in February but was shelved, and status quo, which means keeping the current excise tax exemption policy on 10-seaters.

This policy, intended primarily for AUVs, opened loopholes even for non-AUV assemblers to avail themselves of the tax exemption.

With the uncertain future of a pending bill amending the existing automobile taxation system, the finance department and the BIR felt they must address the concerns of the car assemblers and consumers.

"The non-passage of the legislation has created an uncertainty in the industry and in the market, and the government feels it has to promote an environment of predictability," said Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. said in an interview that the automotive industry was seeking clarification from the government on what it intended to do with the regulation on 10-seaters given the possibility that Congress may not be able to pass the law in the foreseeable future.

"The car industry wants us to make an announcement as to when will we really issue the regulation and what regulation will be issued.

The DOF and the BIR were forced to postpone the implementation of RR4-2003 indefinitely in June when Congress failed to pass the law. The car industry claimed the pending regulation was too restrictive.

The regulation was meant as an interim policy to address the tax leakage caused by the loose policy on 10-seaters. *Clarissa S. Batino*

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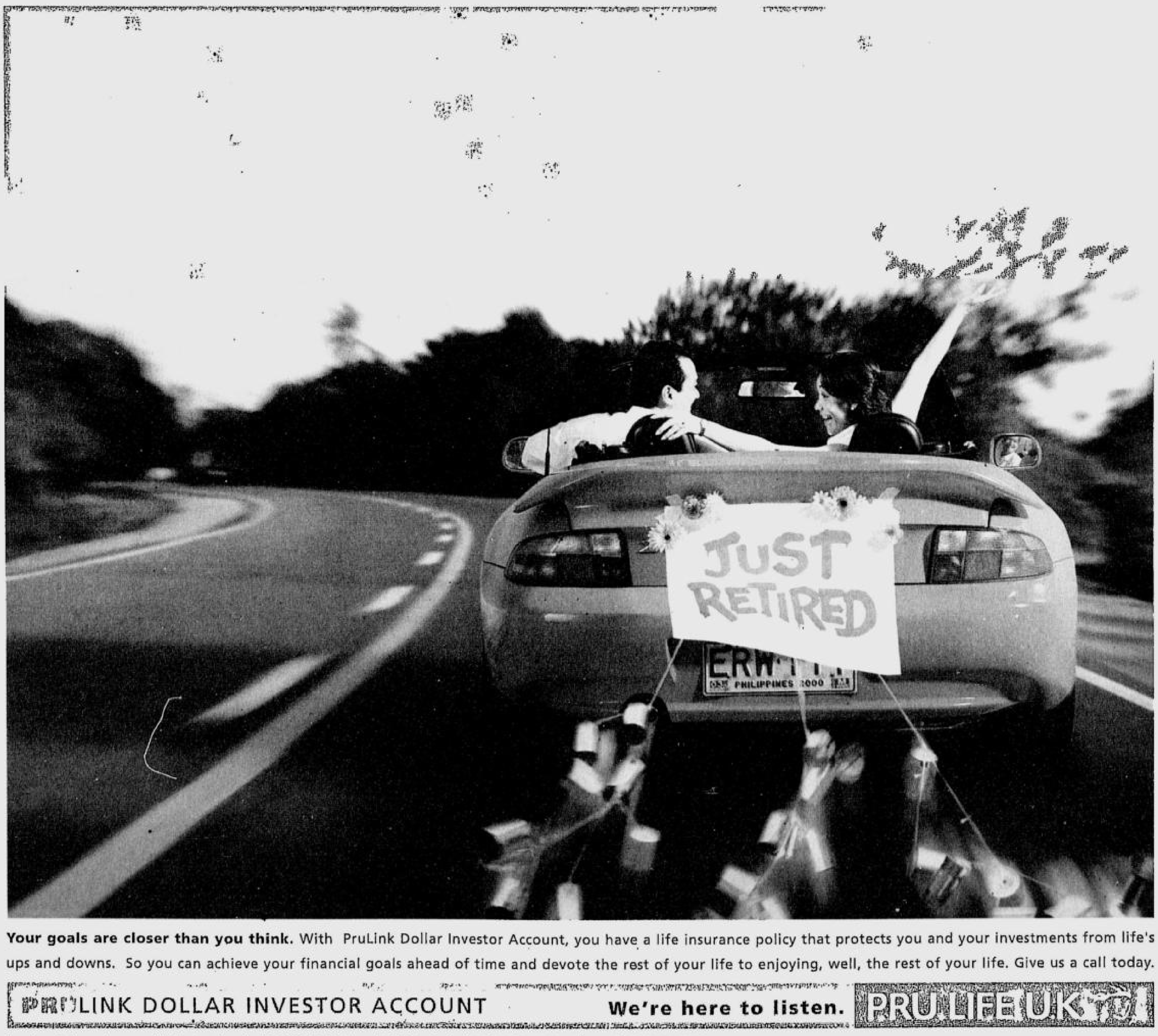

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Instant man

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IF it was a political stunt, nobody can say. But it came out late night last Friday. It was just before the weekend. That Sandiganbayan ruling, thus, was simply amazing.

All of a sudden, seemingly from out of the blue, the Sandiganbayan ruled that the United Coconut Planters Bank, or UCPB, belongs to the government.

But how come the sequestering PCGG, in a quick instant reaction to the ruling, said that it was a "vindication" for the coconut farmers?

And so who really owns the bank now—the government (public) or the coconut farmers (private citizens)?

* * *

OVER at the camp of Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., chair and CEO of San Miguel, the initial reaction was one of shock.

Danding, who is rumored to be running for President in 2004, had management control of UCPB under the Marcos dictatorship.

But as far as the Danding camp could remember, from what I gathered, all these years, the Sandiganbayan never even conducted a single hearing on the UCPB case.

Thus nobody in the Danding camp could as yet say, for instance, just exactly what was the Sandiganbayan's basis for its surprise on-the-spot ruling.

* * *

AS expected, the Danding camp immediately suspected that the ruling could be just another one of those political stunts against Danding.

Some people close to Danding, who are more on the business side, rather than politics, from the start were not exactly hot about his running for President.

They more or less agreed with the assessment of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, who said in public that if Danding will run, he has more to lose than to gain.

Word has been going around that some political stunt men of this cute administration would simply demolish Danding in the courts.

* * *

FROM what I gather, however, Danding already told Gloriaetta face to face that his plan for 2004 was premised on her statement that she would not run anymore.

But just when Danding was starting to warm up to the idea of him running for President next year, up against Gloriaetta, most probably, there came the instant ruling.

But who was the political stunt man, and this cute administration has a lot of them, who performed that amazing stunt at the Sandiganbayan?

Well, nobody could say. Rest assured nevertheless that the instant-ruling stunt man must be a lawyer. Or it could be group of lawyers.

* * *

WE all know about instant coffee, which is not for the Starbucks addict. There is also the instant oatmeal. I am sure that you already heard of the "instant" photo (i.e. digital).

But this "instant" ruling is something totally original. Well, if no trial was conducted, no evidence was presented. Yet you have a ruling.

In all likelihood, the Danding camp will bring up the case to the Supreme Court--again. And the Supreme Court has no choice but to entertain them.

"Grave abuse of discretion," as you know, is enshrined in the Constitution as something that the Supreme Court must look into or else...

* * *

AND so the UCPB case, as a *balikbayan* to the Supreme Court, may still become just an instant case there. I guess there's really something in Danding's plan for 2004.

A few years ago, the Supreme Court already said it saw a prima facie case in the government's claim that the money used to buy UCPB was, in nature...well, "public."

Prima facie must not be confused with a biscuit brand. It simply meant that the case of the government was worth looking into, which the Supreme Court did not do.

It passed on the task to the Sandiganbayan, which must do all the work. It must look at the evidence to be presented by both sides.

* * *

BUT as far as the Danding camp was concerned, unless they all caught a mysterious case of collective amnesia, none of that actually happened.

The ruling says that Danding and company used the coconut levy fund, or the CIIF, to buy UCPB. This, the ruling said, was illegal. Hmm.

Excuse me, boss, pardon my ignorance, but what is intrinsically wrong in buying a bank, in investing money to make it earn?

I grew up believing that investing is good.

* * *

BUT the government's position has always been, well, the "motive" behind the investment. The whaaat? What other motive is there to invest than to make money?

Investing is wrong, only if you use other people's money, and then you put the shares under your name. It is called stealing—out and out stealing!

By the way, somebody big in San Miguel almost succeeded in doing precisely that scheme during the time of Tita Cory.

But Danding was never accused of that. Thus, the question is, did anybody even bother to inspect the roomful of documents, showing who owns the UCPB shares?

* * *

ANOTHER question is, who, between the government and the coconut farmers, will benefit from the Sandiganbayan ruling?

From the PCGG's instant reaction, you can surmise that the PCGG is happy for the farmers. The ruling was a—what was it again—well, "vindication" for them.

Now, that should tell us that the UCPB shares, indeed, were under the names of the coconut farmers. How else could they be vindicated?

I assume therefore that those coconut farmers will get all the money. No? Who will get all the money? What did you say? It is the government?

* * *

FOR that is the effect of the ruling on the farmers--that the government will now have the legal authority to control all that money.

Of course the government can always claim that the money will be used for the benefit of farmers.

That is what the government has been saying all along regarding our taxes.

Me, I'd go for the coconut levy fund as "private," instead of "public," because then I know that it will go directly to the farmers--not the government.

* * *

NOW, the UCPB case has been hanging for 17 years, and all that time, with the bank under government control, the only way for it to go was to deteriorate.

Nobody did anything about it. Okay, somebody did. It was during the time of Kuya Eddie. The bank got into a lot of troublesome loans at that time.

In other words, the Sandiganbayan ruling gives to the government a bank which has a lot of problems.

Thanks to 17 years of PCGG sequestration, UCPB is now insolvent. It can collapse. The new owner, which is the government, is gaining more problems.

* * *

LET me see if I got it right—so, because somebody wants an instant ruling, the government gains ownership of a bank, which is insolvent, and thus it must spend a lot of money to rehabilitate the bank, and all because of politics?

No, Bruno, that's not it. The real target, really, are the San Miguel shares under the name of the CIIF, the coconut levy fund.

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Baguio Country Club	675,000	730,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	70,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	80,000
Camp John Hay	200,000	220,000
Canlubang	450,000	550,000
Canyonwoods	100,000	150,000
Capitol Hills	135,000	160,000
Cebu Country Club	1,200,000	-
Celebrity Sports Club	170,000	195,000
Club Filipino	130,000	190,000
Evercrest "A"	-	80,000
Forest Hills "A"	Please Call	200,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	200,000
Forest Hills "C"	210,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	230,000	270,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	12,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,100,000	10,600,000
Manila Polo	2,100,000	2,300,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	430,000	500,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	500,000	650,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	500,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	90,000	110,000
Mimosa (Individual)	90,000	135,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	-	275,000
Montemar (Individual)	40,000	55,000
Montemar (Corporate)	70,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	-	250,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"		500,000
Puerto Azul		100,000
Quezon City Sports Club		180,000
Rockwell		380,000
Royale Tagaytay "A"		Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	80,000
Sherwood Hills "B"	-	130,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	170,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,300,000	1,500,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	1,600,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	360,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	750,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	120,000	140,000
Valley Golf	280,000	300,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,400,000	Please Call

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Canyon Woods	160,000	Pls. Call
Capitol Hills	-	135,000
Calatagan Golf Club A/B**	70,000/Pls. Call	-
Celebrity Sports Club	160,000	150,000
Club Filipino	-	140,000
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	270,000/450,000**	230,000
Eastridge B	-	80,000
Evercrest	100,000	-
Fontana D/C*/A**	70,000/140,000*/230,000**	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	220,000/230,000*/250,000**	175,000
Manila Golf Ind./Corp.*	10,700,000/12,000,000*	10,000,000/11,000,000*
Manila Polo	2,300,000	-
Makati Sports Club A/B*	-	210,000
Manila Yacht Club	550,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	540,000/600,000*	450,000
Metropolitan Club	100,000	90,000
Mimosa Golf Ind./Corp.*	350,000*	95,000/260,000*
Mt. Malarayat Ind./Corp.*	200,000	-
Orchard Golf A/B*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Phil. Columbian	70,000	-
Puerto Azul A/B	100,000/150,000*	-
Punta Fuego	500,000	400,000
Quezon City Sports Club A	220,000	-
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	165,000*/380,000**	100,000
Royale Tagaytay A/C*	Pls. Call*	-
Sherwoods A/B*/C**	90,000/Pls. Call*	70,000**
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	-	1,400,000
Subic Bay Yacht Club (Corp.)	150,000	-
Subic Golf	Pls. Call	-
Tagaytay Country Club	390,000	350,000
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Stocks seen . . .

From page B1

or 0.51 percent higher from a week ago. The market was initially bullish but profit-taking cut the gains in the latter part of the week after the main index breached the 1,300 level.

"We welcome this period of correction so that the market's future rallies will be healthier and stronger," Summit Securities president Harry Liu said.

Liu said the market was simply taking a breather, but remained on a "structural uptrend" which could lead to hitting the 1,500 within this year.

"Foreign funds have continued to come in. Support is at 1,150-1,200 for the moment," Liu said.

Astro del Castillo, head of research at A&A Securities, said the market would consolidate this week between 1,230 to 1,280.

"The Phisix remains overbought and the recent bombing and the current political maneuverings will be a factor," Del Castillo said.

Domestic political intrigues, he noted, was hampering government efforts to achieve economic and social reforms. *Doris C. Dumlao*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 11, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5	5	4.9	4.9	1,473,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19	19.5	19	19.5	187,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48	48	47.5	47.5	402,200
China Banking Corp.	750	760	750	755	3,010
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33.5	33.5	33	33.5	151,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	31	30.5	31	278,200
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	95	95	95	95	500
Philippine National Bank	24.5	25	24.5	25	18,200
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	100
Security Bank Corp.	16.5	17	16	17	253,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	20.75	20.75	20.75	20.75	10,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.42	1.44	1.42	1.42	2,001,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	120	199	120	199	290
Manulife Financial Corp.	1445	1445	1445	1445	100
Pci Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	100,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1035	1055	1035	1055	3,670
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.25	21.5	20.5	21.25	47,300
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	310,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	695	695	685	690	75,620
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.044	0.045	3,600,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.024	2,000,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.49	0.54	0.48	0.54	11,230,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	40,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	565	570	555	555	389,530
Ivantage Corp.	0.43	0.45	0.43	0.45	210,000
Philweb Corp.	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	32,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	11.75	12	11.25	12	1,304,000
Manila Electric Co. B	17.5	18.25	17.5	18	1,793,000
Petron Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.06	2.08	4,951,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	100,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.95	2.95	2.85	2.9	1,276,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	450,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
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Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	360,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	5,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	8,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.79	0.79	60,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.5	17.75	17.5	17.5	348,800
RFM Corp.	0.73	0.74	0.73	0.74	70,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53.5	54	53.5	54	95,100
San Miguel Corp. B	62.5	62.5	61.5	62	327,900
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Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	10,000
Ayala Corp.	4.75	4.8	4.75	4.75	4,552,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	70,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.7	2.75	2.65	2.7	408,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.035	0.036	0.035	0.036	5,400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	370,000
APC Group Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	11,500,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.007	0.0065	0.007	107,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.88	1.82	1.88	180,000
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	2	2.5	2	2.5	32,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	30,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.62	0.59	0.62	10,450,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	400,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.215	0.22	0.21	0.22	1,420,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.1	1.06	1.08	340,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	15	15.25	14.5	15.25	1,175,000
Global Equities Inc	0.08	0.085	0.08	0.085	400,000
Ionics Inc.	1.06	1.42	1.06	1.36	9,645,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.66	1.66	86,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	80,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.71	0.71	2,570,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.31	0.33	8,910,000
Music Corp.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.38	7,790,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	20,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	210,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc	0.0625	0.08	0.0625	0.08	2,500,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	50,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.95	0.95	0.94	0.94	150,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6	4,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.5	15.5	14.5	14.75	630,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.59	0.61	0.59	0.61	6,340,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	790,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	50,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	130,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	21	21.5	20.5	21.5	228,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	3,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	2,000
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0024	0.0024	0.0022	0.0024	70,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.3	26,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	3,021,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	400,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	80,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.2	13,120,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.235	0.245	0.235	0.245	9,400,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.1	1.12	9,570,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.18	2.18	2.16	2.18	300,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.13	0.155	0.13	0.155	760,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
Primex Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	20,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2	2	2	2	70,000
SM Development Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	53,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6.1	6	6.1	3,457,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0042	0.0044	0.0042	0.0042	278,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	500,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	36,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	550,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	210,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	9,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	19,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	68,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	110,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.01	19,800,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	4,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	120,000

CURRENCIES

July 13, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.878812	1.000000	53.416000
Japan	Yen	0.007464	0.008493	0.453700
United Kingdom	Pound	1.436418	1.634500	87.308500
Hongkong	Dollar	0.112686	0.128225	6.849300
Switzerland	Franc	0.645616	0.734646	39.241900
Canada	Dollar	0.635577	0.723223	38.631700
Singapore	Dollar	0.501461	0.570613	30.479900
Australia	Dollar	0.576497	0.655996	35.040700
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.331128	2.652590	141.690700
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.234344	0.266660	14.243900
Brunei	Dollar	0.500035	0.568990	30.393200
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000107	0.000122	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021105	0.024015	1.282800
UAE	Dirham	0.239269	0.272264	14.543300
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.137900	60.782100
Argentina	Peso	0.317261	0.361011	19.283800
Brazil	Real	0.303562	0.345423	18.451100
Denmark	Kroner	0.134539	0.153092	8.177600
India	Rupee	0.019059	0.021687	1.158400
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.231297	0.263193	14.058700
Mexico	New Peso	0.084323	0.095951	5.125300
New Zealand	Dollar	0.519208	0.590807	31.558500
Norway	Kroner	0.120265	0.136849	7.309900
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015212	0.017310	0.924600
South Africa	Rand	0.117158	0.133314	7.121100
Korea	Won	0.000746	0.000849	0.045400
Sweden	Kroner	0.109332	0.124409	6.645400
Syria	Pound	0.020925	0.023810	1.271800
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025734	0.029283	1.564200
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000551	0.000627	0.033500

Cocktales

From page B3

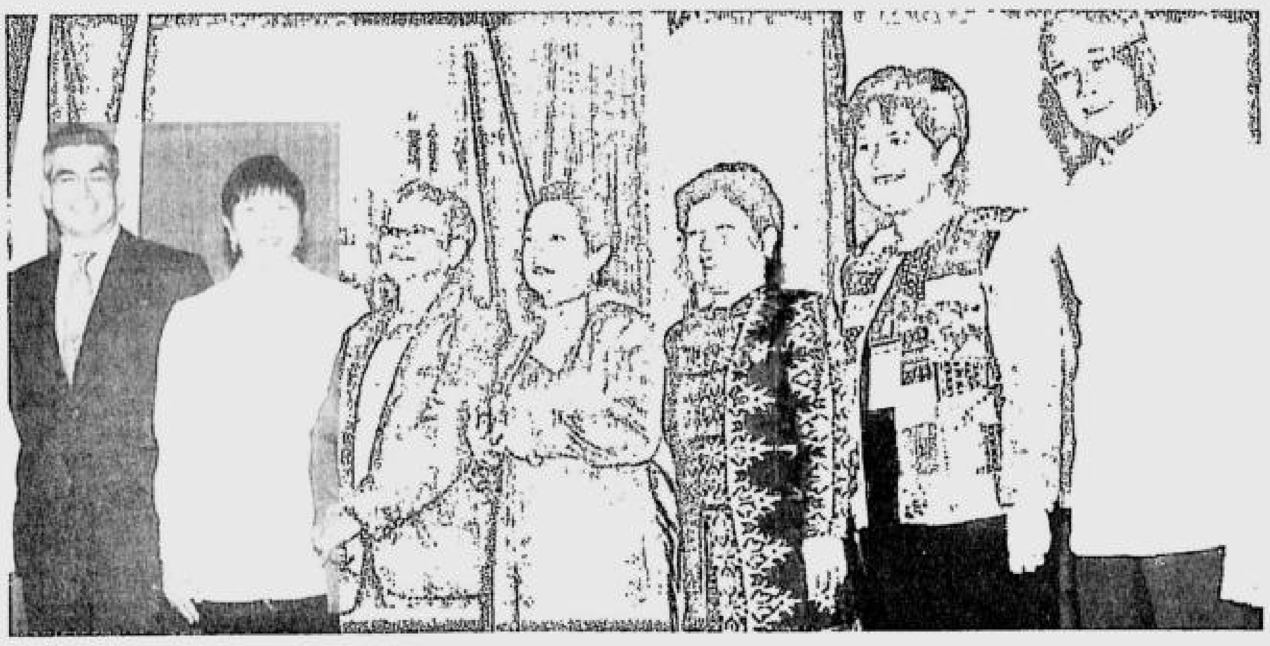
have chosen to acquire ASB properties instead of cash as partial settlement to their claims.

These include, according to the grapevine, former Laguna Rep. Rodolfo Tuazon who decided to get two ASB Shaw Boulevard townhouse units as partial settlement for his P45-million placement; low-key trader Johnny Chan, who agreed to take Alabang, Sta. Elena, and Tagaytay Highlands shares, also as partial settlement for his P80-million placement; and Wilson Go of IBM Philippines, who chose two lots in Parañaque and a townhouse unit, also in ASB Shaw Blvd.

Heard through the grapevine

DUE to sustained stock market and real estate losses, Insular Life is now asking holders of its Diamond Jubilee plans, which are supposed to be self-liquidating after 10 years of payment, to continue paying premiums for another three to four years.

The bigger mystery is, how come Insular Life got entangled into acquiring the so-called *basura* (garbage) stocks in the first place? *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*



GMA WITH CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY LEADERS
President Macapagal is flanked by Secretary Teresita Deles of the National Anti-Poverty Commission and Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman at the recently held Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Expo at the PICC. With them are (from right): Edgardo Bautista, president of Mirant Philippines Corp.; Malou Ernie, director of Petron Foundation; Vicky Garchitorena, head of Ayala Foundation, and Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, president of the Ayala Group. In her keynote address, the President cited Mirant for its P1-billion barangay electrification (Project Beacon) that will deliver power to more than 1,000 remote barangays nationwide.

Napocor losses seen to mount

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE FINANCIAL losses of state-owned National Power Corp. is expected to go up as it would be reducing the running capacity of three power plants by as much as 500 megawatts to give way to Manila Electric Co.'s independent power producers, Napocor president Rogelio Murga said.

Napocor and Meralco are finalizing a detailed agreement on a P20-billion settlement, which partly provides that Meralco's IPPs would be allowed to run at their minimum contract levels of generating capacity.

Murga said in an interview that, to comply with such agreement, Napocor would run the 600-MW Calaca coal-fired plant in Batangas at only 300 MW.

"We would also reduce the running capacity of the 425-MW Makiling-Banahaw geothermal plant by 100 MW," Murga said.

He added that if these reductions were not enough, the 764-MW Pagbilao coal-fired plant would also have to forego 100 MW of running capacity.

"Our production would not be affected significantly if we effect these reductions in the power plants' operations," Murga said. "Still, this will add to our financial losses as the running capacities represent revenues."

Napocor projections showed that the company could lose about P113 billion by end-2003.

Murga said there was no available on how much in revenues the reduction of running capacity translated to, but he said this "would not hurt too much."

"For instance, we have an ongoing rehabilitation of the Mak-Ban plants which requires the shutdown of the affected generating units," the Napocor chief explained.

As for the Calaca plant, he said it was not able to run at full capacity since there was load-sharing among the several power plants in Batangas.

This means that the power plants restrict their production in a way that adjusted to the current limited capacity to transmit electricity from the area.

Also, Murga said that Meralco's IPPs could run their plants at their contracted levels only by 2004 when the National Transmission Corp. shall have finished its Batangas transmission reinforcement project.

Meralco's contracts with Quezon Power Philippines and First Gas Power Corp. provide that their power plants should run at about 85 percent of their installed capacity.

Quezon Power runs the 470-MW coal plant in Mauban town while First Gas owns two natural gas-fired plants with a combined capacity of 1,500 MW.

On Friday, Meralco president Jesus Francisco said the utility expected to sign this week a detailed agreement on a P20-billion settlement on unmet electricity sales quotas.

LIGHTENING THE WORKLOAD OF THE LAW PRACTITIONER

If you are an independent law practitioner, or the head or manager of a law firm or the legal department of a corporate or public entity *anywhere in the Philippines* experiencing difficulties in the accomplishment of any of the following legal tasks:

- **Case Briefing:** identification of the issues and evaluation of the evidence and the applicable provisions of law and jurisprudence;
- **Shepardized Legal Research;** and
- **Drafting of Position Papers and Major Court Pleadings,** particularly case memoranda, MRs, petitions under Rules 43, 44 and 45 of the Rules of Court, petitions for review, appeal briefs, etc.

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Website: www.paralegalbureau.org

Citystate Savings Bank, Inc.
709 Shaw Blvd Pasig City

Statement of Condition
As of June 19, 2003

ASSETS		AMOUNT:
Cash & Cash Items	P	30,916,949 30
Due From Bangko Sentral		11,678,107 55
Due From Other Banks		31,427,325 66
Interbank Loans Receivable		90,000,000 00
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		457,549,306 35
Available for Sale Sec.-Govt. Others		330,000,000 00
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		13,717,642 21
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (Net)		99,236,440 39
Other Assets (Net)		
Property Owned/ Acquired		61,668,106 13
Others		54,058,925 22
TOTAL ASSETS	P	1,180,252,802.82
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	76,247,045 76
Savings Deposits		591,569,224 70
Due to BSP		475,262 31
Managers Check		5,302,063 60
Accrued Interest, Taxes & Other Expenses Payable		3,120,811 17
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits		296,994 10
Other Liabilities		6,081,428 39
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	683,092,830.03
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS:		
Capital Stock	P	441,000,000 00
Paid-in Surplus		2,222,444 00
Surplus Free		39,925,322 86
Undivided Profits		14,012,205 93
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	497,159,972.79
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	1,180,252,802.82
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS:		
Items Held For Safekeeping	P	4,178 00
Items Held As Collateral		483 00
Late Deposits / payments received		439,576 47
Deficiency Claims Receivable		1,434,382 42
Outward Bills for Collections		29,056 67
Outs. Guarantees issues - Others		4,665,269 92
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	6,572,946 48

COMPLIANCE WITH MAGNA CARTA LAW:

Prescribed Rates of Compliance	6% For Small Enterprises	2% For Medium Enterprises
Actual Compliance	115.92 %	305.44 %

OTHER INFORMATION: (CB Circular 208)		
Non-performing loans and	P	46,380,364 33
Ratio to total Loan Portfolio		8.02%
Classified loans and other risk assets	P	48,380,304 33
General loan loss reserve	P	6,202,288 69
Specific loan loss reserve	P	6,740,893 33
Return on equity (ROE)		7.84%
DOSRI loans/advances	P	11,420,498 26
Ratio to total loan portfolio, and		1.97%
Past due DOSRI loans/advances and ratio to total portfolio		NIL

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Vicente M. Santiago, Jr.	Chairman
Alfonso G. Sly	Vice Chairman
Antonio L. Cabangon-Chua	Director
D. Alfred A. Cabangon	Director
Leow Siak Fah	Director
Leow Tze Wan	Director
Feorello M. Bolo	Director
J. Wilfredo A. Cabangon	Director
D. Arnold A. Cabangon	Director
Godofredo C. Uy-Tioco	Director
Armando C. Trinidad	Director
Benjamin V. Ramos	Director
Anthony Tan	Director
Dr. Ramon L. Sin	Director
Atty. Joaquin T. Venus, Jr.	Director, Corporate Secretary

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS:

D. Alfred A. Cabangon	President
Atty. Rey D. Delfin	Executive Vice President

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }
PASIG CITY } S S

We, Eduardo O Olavario and D Alfred A. Cabangon, solemnly swear that all matters set forth in this report are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief

Sgd. EDUARDO O. OLAVARIO
VP - Comptroller

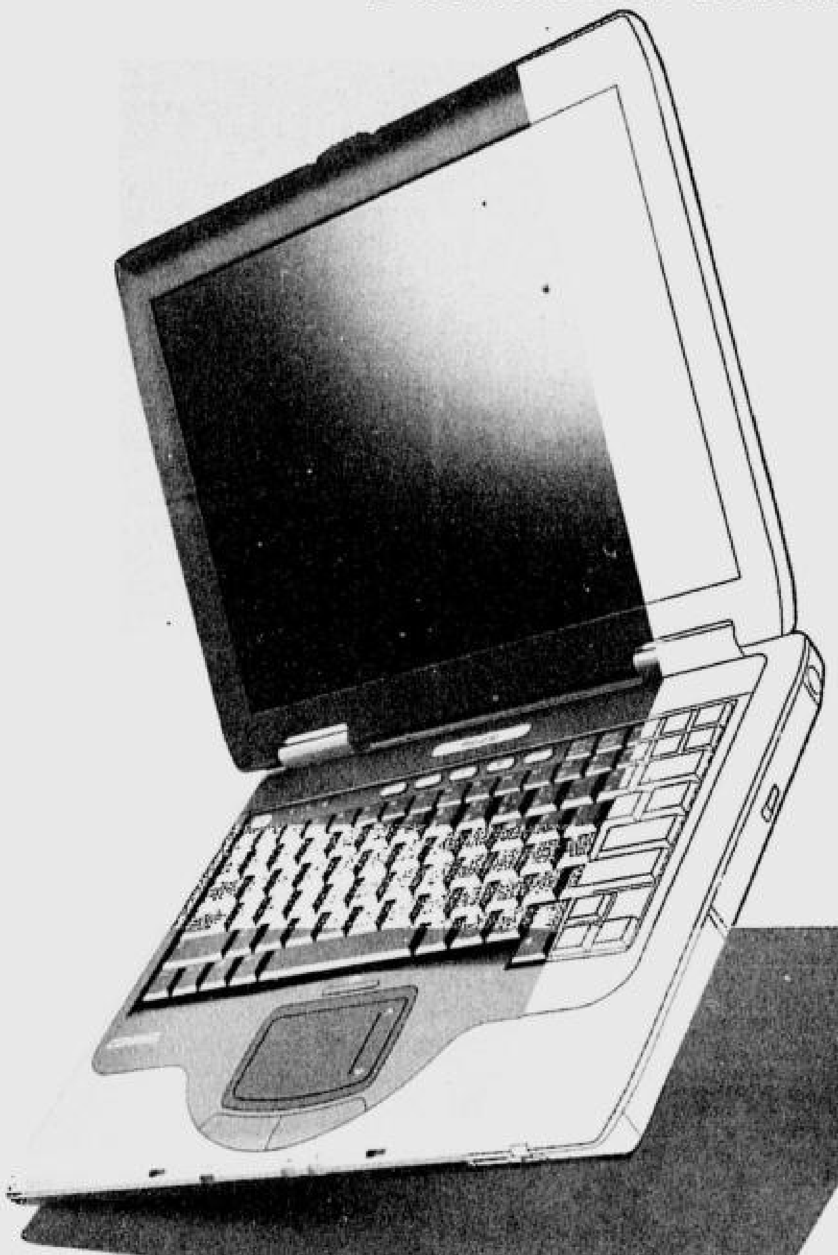
Sgd. D. ALFRED A. CABANGON
President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 08th day of July, 2003 affiant exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No 19065177 issued at Bacoor, Cavite on July 08, 2003 and Residence Certificate No. 19313034 issued at Mandaluyong City on January 23, 2003 respectively

Sgd. TEODORO D. VILLAPENA, JR.
NOTARY PUBLIC
UNTIL DEC 31, 2003
IBP NO 572293
PTR NO 1391482

Doc No 187
Page 38
Book No 11
Series of 2003

> Compaq Presario 2129AP, bundled with an HP Printer. Perfect.



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- 128MB DDR
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Per DTI Permit No. 1897, Series of 2003.

People, Events & Products

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aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Sun Cellular lets you speak, text on your own terms

WHEN the cellular phone was first developed, everyone was excited to talk to someone on the move. Then came the innovation on SMS, popularly known as text messaging, which took the country by storm a few years after it was first introduced in the Philippines. Since 1998, texting has evolved into a major communication tool for the Filipinos.

Still, different folks have different strokes. If you are a businessman who makes calls all the time, you hardly use up the allowed number of text messages in your plan. On the other hand, if you are a student who loves sending messages, you would rather have all your allotment to text messaging to sustain your endless texting habit.

Now, you can have it on your own terms with Sun Cellular.

Sun Cellular wants you to have the flexibility to choose the way you want to communicate. You can choose from a range of subscription plans that best suit your communication needs.

As the newest and most dynamic network in the Philippines, Sun Cellular two subscription plan profiles—the i-Speak and the i-Text—graphically describing different consumer needs and wants.

Some people just love to talk. Talk about the sweet details of a first date, or discuss a proposal with your colleague. Sun Cellular's i-Speak gives you the power to extend your conversations on sweet nothings or hard facts with low rates per minute on voice calls that make you want to talk more.

i-Speak is the best plan for people who make voice calls often. This plan profile gives you more value for your money with voice call rates as low as P4 per minute.

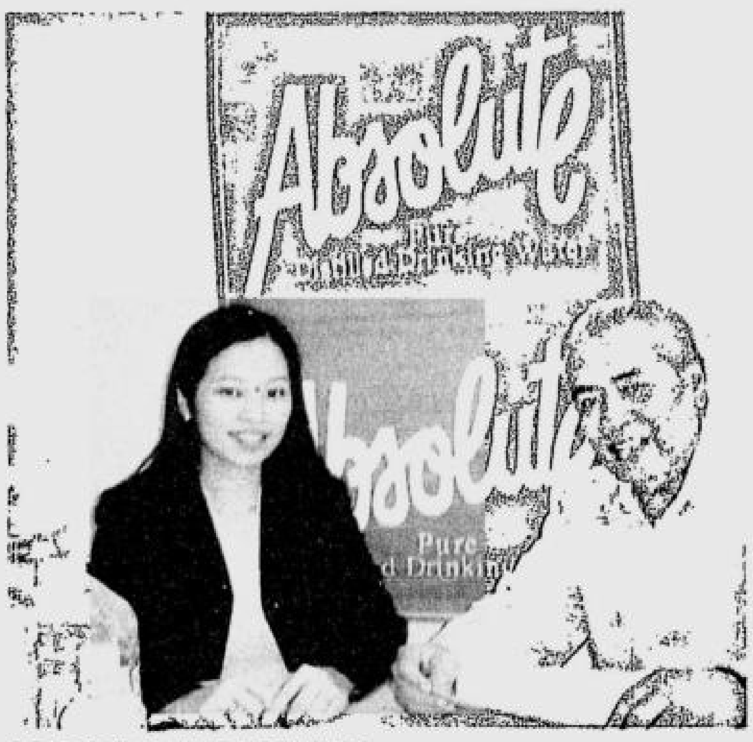
For people who live to text, make i-Text your choice.

To make texting a much more fun activity more than ever, Sun Cellular cuts down its per message sent charge to as low as P0.50 per text and as much as double the free text allowance per month for i-Text plan subscribers. You can use it to send messages to any mobile phone, whether he's a Sun subscriber or a subscriber of other mobile networks.

Whether you make more voice calls or text more, Sun Cellular has something perfect just for you. Sun Cellular gives you the power to choose how you communicate, the way you want. Isn't that what communication is all about?

PHILIPS HOLDS BUSINESS FORUM FOR EMCOR

Philips Consumer Electronics (PCE), Europe's number one consumer electronics company, recently held a business seminar for strategic partner Emcor Appliance, one of the largest home appliances distributors in Visayas and Mindanao. Philips also showcased its latest electronics products during the business forum held at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati City. Shown are Emcor managers headed by Josie Manaois, Emcor vice president for treasury (seated, 3rd from left), and Danny Talaban, Emcor store operations manager for Visayas (standing, 2nd row 2nd from left) with the Philips team headed by Verne dela Cruz, account manager for Mindanao (standing 2nd row, 4th from left), Mark Sta. Maria, product marketing manager (standing 1st row, right) and Michael Chang, consultant for color TV (standing 1st row right), Michelle Cal, account manager for Mindanao (seated left) and Blue Rivera, account manager for Visayas (seated right) during the business forum. Royal Philips Electronics of the Netherlands is one of the world's biggest electronics companies and Europe's largest, with sales of Euro 31.8 billion in 2002. It is a global leader in color TV sets, lighting, electric shavers, medical diagnostic imaging and patient monitoring, and one-chip TV products.



ABSOLUTE-LY PARTNERS

Absolute Pure Distilled Drinking water signed up as major sponsor of Net 25's news and public affairs programs, including the 'Net 25 World Report' (English and Filipino Edition). Among the other TV shows, it has also sponsored 'Play!' And 'Fresh Gear', Net 25's music video and IT/gadget program, respectively. Absolute today boasts of being the first and only bottled water in the Philippines to receive an NSF certification. NSF International is a widely recognized and respected independent certification organization for public health and safety. Present during the contract signing were (from left) ABI product manager Jenny Jill Ang and EBC network general manager Art V. de Guzman.

Carrier named Platinum Superbrand

CARRIER, the number one air con brand in the Philippines today, solidified its claim to its being the market's brand of choice by being named as Platinum Award winner in the air conditioner category by the Readers Digest Superbrands survey during awarding ceremonies held at the Westin Philippine Plaza recently.

During its survey, respondents were asked to identify the single most preferred brand across a wide range of product categories in terms of quality, value trustworthiness, strong image and an understanding of customer needs.

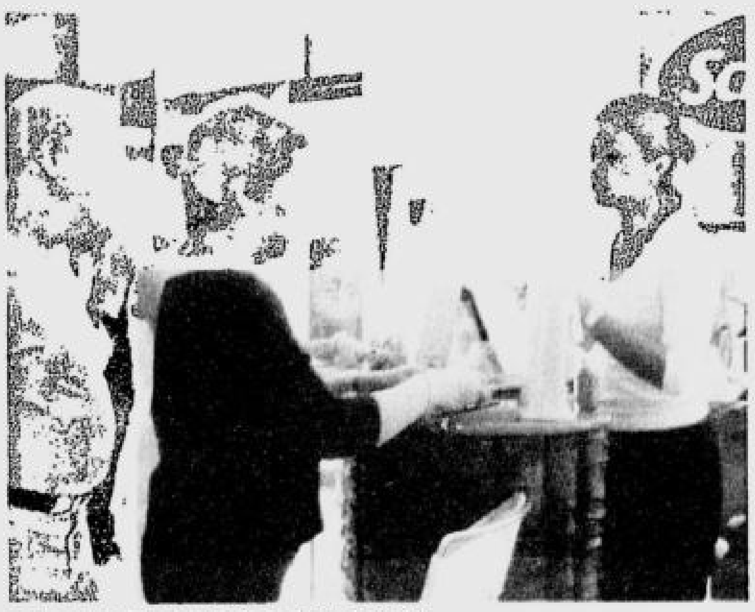
This marks the second consecutive year for Carrier to have garnered Superbrand status, having been a Gold award winner the previous year.

Named after Dr. Willis Carrier, acknowledged as the inventor of the air conditioner, Carrier's reputation for quality cooling performance over the last 100 years is unassailable. And for over 40 years in the Philippines, Carrier has cooled more homes, offices, commercial establishments and other important landmarks than any other brand.

Today, Carrier air conditioners manufactured in the Philippines are being exported worldwide. This is further proof of the brand's overall reliability as well as the global competitiveness of Filipino companies.

Carrier offers its customers a wide choice of products, beginning from its highly popular Ultima and Silencia window room air conditioners for homes, stylishly designed split and package type units for select household and commercial applications, to its heavy duty applied and commercial systems used in buildings, shopping malls and other large establishments.

Carrier products are available in practically all appliance stores throughout the country and also boasts of a nationwide service center network supported by a 24-hour customer call center (863-5555), the only one of its kind in the industry accepting both sales and service inquiries.



SCHOLL FOOT RAID IN MALLS

Scholl, world renowned foot and leg care specialist, recently invaded malls in Metro Manila to impart to consumers the proper care of their legs and feet to prevent problems such as bunions, corns, callouses, athlete's foot and verrucae. Scholl has a wide range of foot care lines from healthy, vanity to sporty. It has foot care toiletries, which include Cool Mint Powder with peppermint oil and lichen; Soothing Foot Bath with rosemary and chamomile; Deo Foot Spray with lemon and lime; Deep Moisturizing Cream with aloe vera, cocoa butter and Vitamin E; Rough Skin Remover from peaches and softening lotion with wheat germ and evening primrose; Refreshing Foot Mist with menthol and witch hazel.

EARTH DAY RUN 2003

Meralco employees dusted off their running shoes and suited up for the recent fun run at the Quirino Grandstand in celebration of Earth Day. Most who joined the event are also members of the power firm's various health groups, including its walking and running clubs. Meralco has been actively promoting good health among its employees and supporting environmental programs with its solid waste management campaign as part of the company's corporate social responsibility efforts. All proceeds from the Earth Day Run will be donated to Bantay Kalikasan Foundation for the planting of trees at the La Mesa Dam.

Bits Clips

Networld Hotel turns 2

TAKE advantage of the anniversary promo of Networld Hotel as it celebrates its 2nd year this July. Locals or expats with proof of residency may get a chance to stay in either a deluxe or executive room for only P1700 net with complimentary American or Filipino set breakfast for two persons. Guests will also get the chance to enjoy free use of dry or steam sauna or hot or cold jacuzzi at the SM Kenko Health Club. Complete set lunch or dinner is also offered for only P220 net at the Cafe Sampaguita. Come and experience authentic Japanese service within your reach. The hotel is located at Roxas Boulevard corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Pasay City. For reservations and inquiries, call 536-7777 and 525-8158, fax 536-5835 or e-mail sales@networldhotel.com.ph.

7th Academic Bookfair

ALL SYSTEMS are go for the 7th Academic Bookfair to be held from July 14 to 18, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the UP Bahay ng Alumni, Diliman, Quezon City. Organized by the Association of Booksellers from the Academe and the Professions (Abap), the 5-day bookfair has adopted the theme "Of Books and Bytes: Connecting People, Information and Technology." As added attractions, seminar will be held, organized by Abap in cooperation with the Professional Librarians Review Center and the Center for Human Research and Development Foundation Inc.

Lopez, Aboitiz reveal secrets

REGINA Paz Lopez, managing director of ABS-CBN Foundation and Jon Erramon Aboitiz of Aboitiz Ventures Inc. will be featured in "It Runs in the Blood: Unlocking the Secrets of Successful Family Businesses", the 3rd installment of Ateneo de Manila University's Business Leadership Forum. Organized by the John Gokongwei School of Management, the forum features successful indoviduals from the academe and the business profession to share their insights, experiences, and practical wisdom in running a successful family business. To be held at the Hotel InterContinental Manila on Aug. 1, "It Runs in the Blood" is open to all interested parties. Registration is ongoing, with an early bird rate when fees are paid on or before July 14. To register and for more details, call 899-5955, fax 890-5012, or e-mail jgsomforum@admu.edu.ph

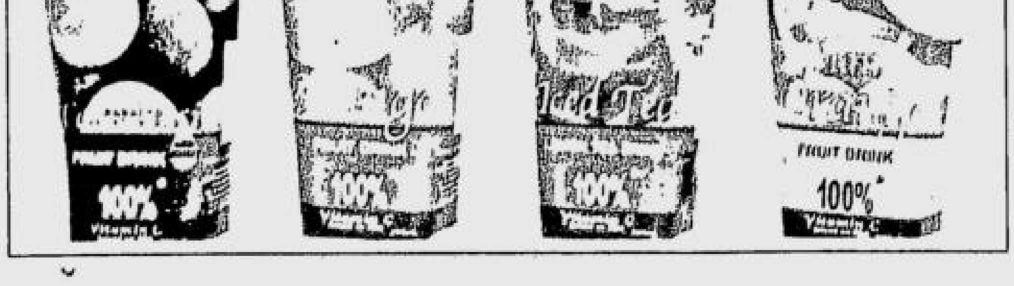
THE BAKERY EXCHANGE IN WORLD FOOD EXPO 2003

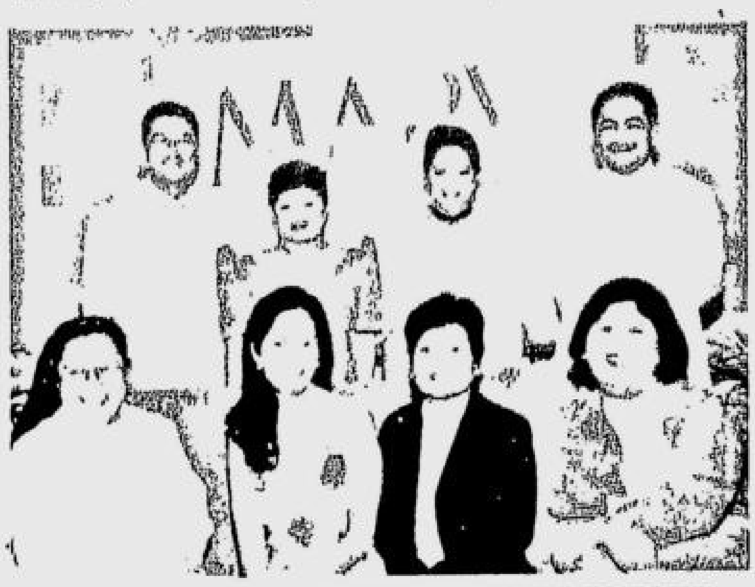
Bakerex, a company engaged in bakery equipment and technology, will be one of the featured exhibitors of Baker's Fair, a co-located event of World Food Expo 2003 (Wofex) to be held at the World Trade Center from Aug. 6 to 9. Wofex also features worldwide food and beverages (import and export), food machinery (handling, processing, packaging), Taste Expo (series of culinary competitions), and the World Food Summit (free seminars and workshops by industry experts). Be part of this most anticipated food show in the country. Call Premier Events Plus Group Inc. (PEPGroup) at 436-4711/12, 929-7993/63, 436-4898, or e-mail info@pepgroup.com. At right is Dado Ng, president of Bakerex, with Randy Manaloto, vice president of PEPGroup.

Product Files

Nutri-Licious drinks now in tetra wedge pack

NUTRI-licious Foods Corp. (NFC) launches Nutri-licious Drinks in Tetra Wedge Pack. The new packaging guarantees the products to be nutritious and delicious. The move is in line with NFC's "Can Nutritious Be Delicious? Yes, Nutri-licious!" campaign. These products have 100-percent vitamin C based on Recommended Dietary Allowance and have no preservatives added. It comes in 200-ml pack and different flavors that include mango, *calamansi* with honey, mango orange and iced tea lemon. Nutri-licious products are made from natural sources so each Nutri-licious product has the vitamins and minerals inherent from fruits. NFC is one of the country's leading manufacturers and exporters of premium fruit juices and other beverages.





MKP CELEBRATES 3 WITH 5 WOMEN WITH HEART

Mary Kay Philippines (MKP), in celebration of its 3rd anniversary held recently at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, highlighted the event with the awarding of five distinguished personalities for its exclusive Woman with a Heart civic program. They are (seated, from left) Sr. Mary John Mananzan, OSB, Gina Lopez, Cecilia 'Che-Che' Lazaro and Jessica Soho. With them are (standing, from left) MKP general manager Bernie Mercado, director for sales and training development Lynne Tribiño, marketing manager Jiji Recto and finance manager Tony Posadas. Vilma Santos-Recto was also chosen one of the awardees.

Rule on independent directors relaxed

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has ruled that a minority stockholder is qualified to serve as an independent director of a listed corporation provided his holdings does not exceed 2 percent of the company's outstanding capital stock.

SEC officials said this was designed to align the rules of the commission with that of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

In the meantime, the commission en banc also ruled that any application for new or renewal of securities broker-dealer license should be endorsed by a duly accredited broker-dealer association such as the Philippine Association of Securities Broker and Dealers Inc.

The SEC noted that PASBDI was an organization that would best know the standing of a broker-dealer.

The SEC requires that at least 20 percent of a publicly listed company's board or at least two directors, whichever is lesser, must be independent directors.

An independent director refers to a person, who apart from his fees and equity holdings, is independent of management and free from any business or other relationship which could reasonably be perceived to materially interfere in his exercise of independent judgment in carrying out his responsibilities as a director. *Elena R. Torrijos*

Finance projecting 21% decline in public sector deficit next year

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT'S consolidated deficit is expected to go down by 21 percent next year to P221.63 billion, from the projected P281.87 billion this year, data from the Department of Finance showed.

In 2002, the consolidated public sector deficit stood at P281.3 billion, up 69 percent or P114.97 billion from P166.33 billion in 2001.

A finance official said the expected decline in the deficit would be brought about by the scheduled privatization of National Power Corp. assets.

The International Monetary Fund continues to monitor the country's CPSD position as it indicates how well the government and government-owned and -controlled corporations manage their finances.

The CPSD covers the financial position of the national government, 14 GOCCs, the state-owned financial institutions including pension funds Social Security System and Government Service and Insurance System, and the local government units. The cost of restructuring the debts of the central bank also forms part of the CPSD.

The trend from 2001 to last year led many investors and credit rating firms to believe that the Philippine government was losing control of its finances, which led to rating downgrades from Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings.

The government is hoping to arrest the deterioration of its financial position as reflected in the projected P60-billion improvement in the CPSD by 2004.

Of the projected P221.63 billion in CPSD in 2004, the government deficit is expected to account for P197.8 billion, or lower than the expected P202 billion this year. The cost of the central bank restructuring is expected to remain at more than P19 billion.

The government is expecting that the deficit of GOCCs will drop by 53 percent to P45 billion, from the estimated P97 billion this year.

Earlier, the DOF had said the CPSD this year could reach P327.5 billion but after revisiting the numbers, the projection was scaled down to P281.87 billion.

A surplus of P38.126 billion from financial institutions and local government units should offset some of the deficit from government corporations. This year, the surplus is placed at P27.999 billion.

Last year, the CPSD accounted for 7 percent of the gross domestic product. This year, the ratio should decline to 6.5 percent and further down to 4.7 percent in 2004.

STI opening branches in Indonesia

By Michelle V. Remo

SYSTEMS Technology Institute (STI) has entered into a P15-million joint venture with Indonesian firm Metro Data for its offshore expansion.

The joint venture company, STI-Metro Data, is set to operate two STI Education Center branches in Jakarta this year. They will open on Sept. 2. The company expects to have at least 100 enrollees for each branch in the first year of operation.

STI senior vice president for network management Peter Fernandez said the partner company Metro Data had spent for the school facilities and operational cost, while STI would provide the educational program.

"We (STI) chose a partner whom we know has a good grasp of the IT field and who can assist us in the creation of our marketing tools," said Fernandez in an interview.

Metro Data is one of the leading distributors of systems integrator and computer hardware in Indonesia.

"We are actively undertaking overseas expansion because we believe our extensive educational program and academic system, which are peculiar to STI, would be beneficial to more students around the globe," he said.

Aside from Indonesia, STI has already inked deals with partner firms to set up franchise schools in Singapore, Taiwan and certain Middle East countries in 2004.

"We are looking at establishing one school each in Taiwan and Singapore, and at least two schools in the Middle East," he said.

Fernandez said STI was also planning to put up franchises in the United States, Hong Kong and China in the next couple of years. Last year, STI opened its branch in Bangladesh.

He said STI required a 2-percent royalty fee and a P750,00 franchise fee from every partner firm.

STI-Metro Data, said Fernandez, expected the branches in Indonesia to generate at least P8 million in revenue during the first year of operation.

GOINGS-ON

Crafters' expo

PRIMEWORKS Intermedia Inc. will hold the 1st International Crafters' Expo 2004 with the theme "Making Both Ends Meet" at the World Trade Center, Philcite complex along Roxas Boulevard on March 26-28, 2004.

Primeworks will showcase more than a hundred local craft producers as well as foreign craft producers with new technologies and products to offer.

Primeworks intends to help revive traditional and ethnic Filipino crafts set aside by the upsurge of modern technology. A total of 190 booths are up for grabs for the three-day event at P20,000 to P30,000 depending on the booth sizes. Interested parties may call the Expo secretariat through Tel. Nos. (632)373-4215 and 372-1238. Registration forms and Expo details are also available at the Primeworks office at No. 6 Gen. Lim St., Heroes Hills, Quezon City.

AUB opens 22nd branch

ASIA United Bank (AUB) recently opened its 22nd branch in Angeles City, Pampanga. It is the bank's first branch in the region where it has set up a loan and trade finance desk to service the borrowing and trade financing requirements of exporters and other businesses in Central Luzon.

As of end 2002, the bank registered a net income of P443.20 million, tripling its P138.4 million income in 2001.

AUB is continuously exploring the acquisition of additional branch licenses and will continue to expand its trade-related businesses.

BDO-Trust tops survey

BANCO de Oro's trust banking group has again emerged the best performing fund manager for the year 2002 based on the recently concluded Watson Wyatt's Survey of Performance of Retirement Funds in the Philippines. This is the second consecutive year that BDO-Trust has achieved this distinction, as it had also topped the survey in the year 2001.

BDO's average return of 13.96 percent for 2002 and 14.10 percent for 2001 bested the average returns of 15 participating fund managers for all trusteed funds in the survey.

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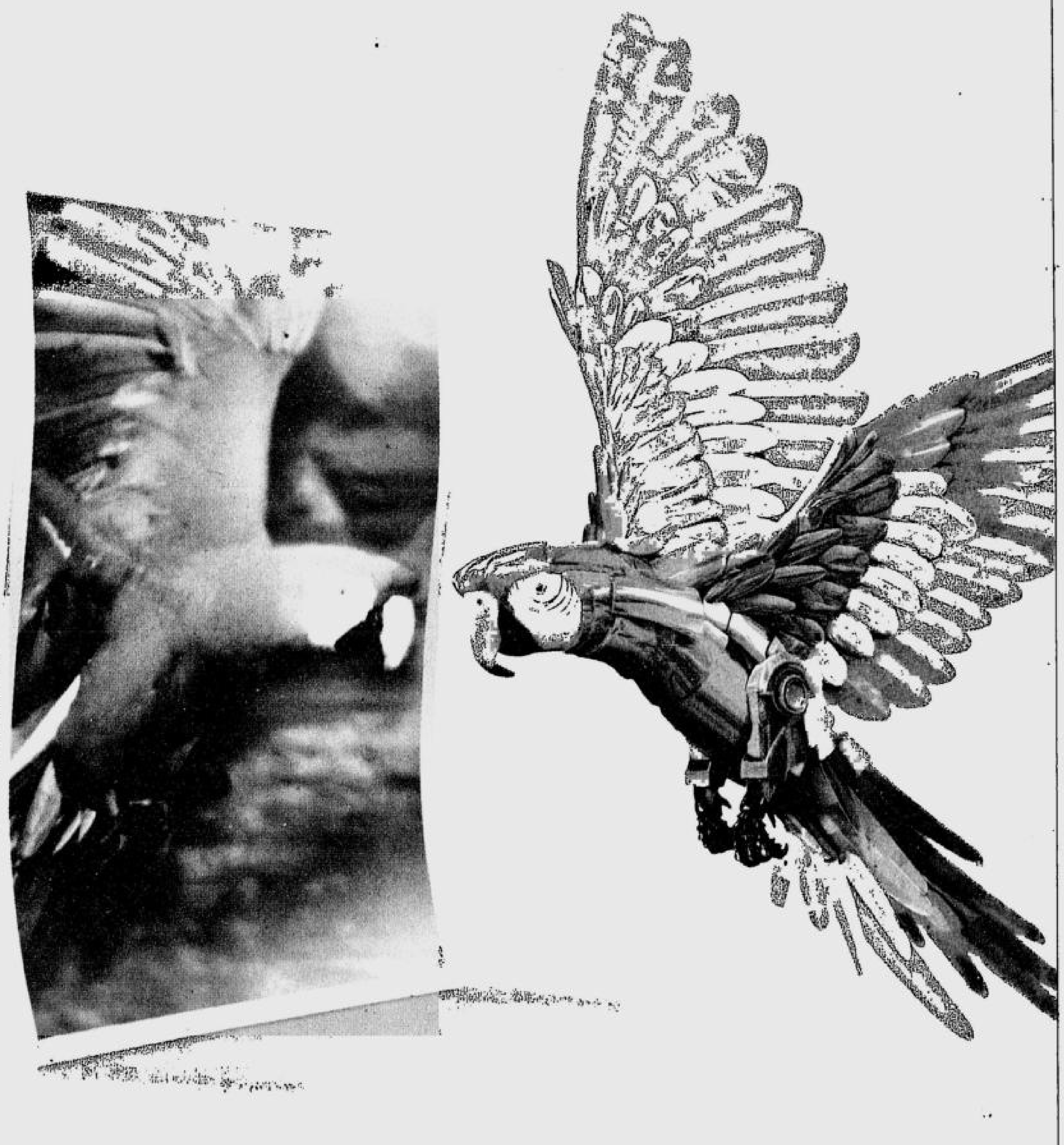
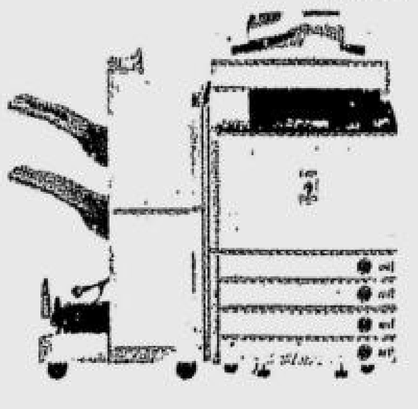


A new breed has evolved...



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TEXT SERVICE PARTNERSHIP

ABS-CBN, Smart dispute revenue-sharing deal

By Doris C. Dumlao

A DISPUTE has erupted between ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. and Smart Communications Inc. over their SMS (short messaging system) or text service partnership involving web- and television-based programs.

Sources privy to the negotiations disclosed to the INQUIRER that ABS-CBN had threatened to scrap its partnership with Smart, as the latter was insisting that its revenue share from the SMS service be raised to 70 percent.

At present, ABS-CBN, through Internet arm ABS-CBN Interactive, splits the proceeds from SMS services—such as those involving Game Ka Na Ba and ABS-CBN News—with Smart and Globe Telecom.

From the tie-up with Smart alone, which pumps in bigger revenue compared to Globe, ABS-CBN will forego more than P5 million in monthly revenues, the same amount that Smart will not get if the 50-50 sharing deal stays, the sources estimated.

For ABS-CBN, changing the revenue-sharing to favor Smart was non-negotiable, leading to the break-up of the partnership, the sources noted.

In a separate interview, Mon Isberto, spokesperson for Smart, stressed that the discussions with ABS-CBN would not affect its SMS partnership with ABS-CBN on popular game show Game KNB.

"It's a number of services affecting access to 2366 under Pinoycentral.com," Isberto said. "Also, the discussions are not over and the matters are still open for discussion."

On the part of Smart, however, it wanted to raise its revenue share as it always enjoyed the bigger share on other SMS service agreements, like in the case of Chikka.com which provides web-based international SMS service.

"What Smart wants to do is to implement its standard revenue-sharing agreement with content providers," Isberto said.

Before the month ends, other sources said ABS-CBN was ready to announce that Globe Telecom would remain as its sole SMS provider. The sources said that means only Globe subscribers may henceforth participate in the SMS promotions of Game KNB or gain access to breaking news from ABS-CBN.

The sources said that unless ABS-CBN and Smart could mend their business partnership, ABS-CBN Interactive would be badly hit, as SMS service was the Internet unit's bread and butter.

The pullout of Smart could even lead to loss of jobs within ABS-CBN Interactive, the sources admitted.

Despite the huge impact on its Internet subsidiary, however, the dispute over the revenue-sharing deal with Smart accounts for only a small portion of ABS-CBN's group-wide revenues. For each month in May and June, the country's biggest television network posted more than P1 billion in revenues.

Net profits by year's end are expected to reach "well over a billion," ABS-CBN chair Eugenio Lopez III earlier estimated.

PLDT's ...

From page B3

financial position.

This will likewise align the company with International Accounting Standards.

"It must be stressed however that any write-offs will be principally non-cash in nature. This means that our strong cash flow will not be affected, and neither will the fundamentals of the company. Furthermore, our ability to pay down our debt remains intact," the source said.

ING Barings said in a recent report that PLDT could possibly write down some of its assets in Philippine Home Cable Holdings Inc. and satellite telecommunications service provider ACeS Philippines.

The PLDT group was expected to pare down its debts by $150 million during the first half of the year.

PLDT president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan said in an interview Friday that the company was on track to meeting all its repayment obligations.

Renegotiation ...

From page B2

contracts, but most of these have either expired or are about to expire," he said.

Del Callar said three contracts have already expired, five were to expire this year and another five will lapse in 2004.

He said that this meant, more or less, there are only four left since it might be more economical for the government to wait for contracts nearing maturity to expire instead of buying them out.

In June, the Department of Energy said negotiations with several IPPs had generated savings totaling $832 million in net present value.

The latest successful renegotiation was achieved last month with CBK Power Co. Ltd., from which Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said government negotiators clinched $95 million (about P5 billion) in savings.

The $486-million contract with CBK Power involves the rehabilitation work on and maintenance and operation of the Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan hydro power complex in Laguna.

The DOE is involved in the review and renegotiation of 22 deals out of the 35 IPP contracts with National Power Corp.

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STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(As of June 19, 2003)

ASSETS		AMOUNT
Due from Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas	P	171,085,821
Due from Other Banks		2,141,000,384
Trading Account Securities – net		1,026,426,379
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments – net		370,100,175
Loans, Discouhts & Advances – net		1,707,552,788
Equity Investments		5,500,100
Bank Premises, Furniture Fixtures & Equipment – net		27,599,802
Real and Other Properties Owned/Acquired		17,176,250
Other Assets		56,918,092
TOTAL ASSETS	P	5,523,359,791
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	221,105,871
Time Deposits		1,626,301,055
Due to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas		2,049,013
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		305,135
Bills Payable		735,106,822
Other Liabilities		312,765,569
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	2,897,633,465
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	1,850,000,000
Capital Stock Deposit		315,000,000
Surplus		458,678,409
Other Capital Accounts		2,047,917
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	2,625,726,326
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	5,523,359,791
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Spot/Future Exchange Bought	P	3,271,522,144
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		3,455,706,281
Items Held for Safekeeping/Collaterals		4,788,273,523
Items Held in Trust		144,879,005
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	11,660,380,953

OTHER INFORMATION*
Compliance with Magna Carta Law:

Prescribed Ratio of Compliance	6% for Small Enterprises	2% for Medium Enterprises
Actual Compliance	6.17%	2.08%

Amount of Non-Performing Loans	P	-
Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio		-
Amount of Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets	P	-
General provision for loan losses	P	20,665,462
Specific provision for loan losses	P	-
Return on Equity (ROE)		2.01%
Amount of DOSRI loans/advances	P	35,857,653
Ratio of DOSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio		1.48%
Amount of Past Due DOSRI loans/advances	P	-
Ratio of past due DOSRI loans/adv to total loan portfolio		-

*Amended to conform with Circular No. 208 dated August 17, 1999 and Memorandum to all Banks dated November 29, 1999.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Colin F. Bamford	Chairman
Vicente B. Castillo	Director/President/CEO
Jose Manuel Arrojo	Director
Liberato S. de Jesus	Director
Regina L. Davila	Director
Antonio Garcia del Riego	Director
Francisco Lera	Director
Derek J. Gibson	Director/COO
Pedro E. Roxas	Director
Regis V. Puno	Director
Atty. Rosella P. Mapa	Corporate Secretary

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
CITY OF MAKATI)S.S

We, Vicente B. Castillo and Agnes B. Santos of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd.) AGNES B. SANTOS
Financial Controller

(Sgd) VICENTE B. CASTILLO
President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 9th day of July 2003 affiants exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No. 14508046, issued at Makati City on May 5, 2003 and Resident Certificate No. 021207612 issued at Pasig City on February 18, 2003.

(Sgd) Oscar T. Zaldivar
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2004
PTR No. 7631735
Date Issued : January 14, 2003
Makati City
TIN 121-493-459

Doc. No. 314
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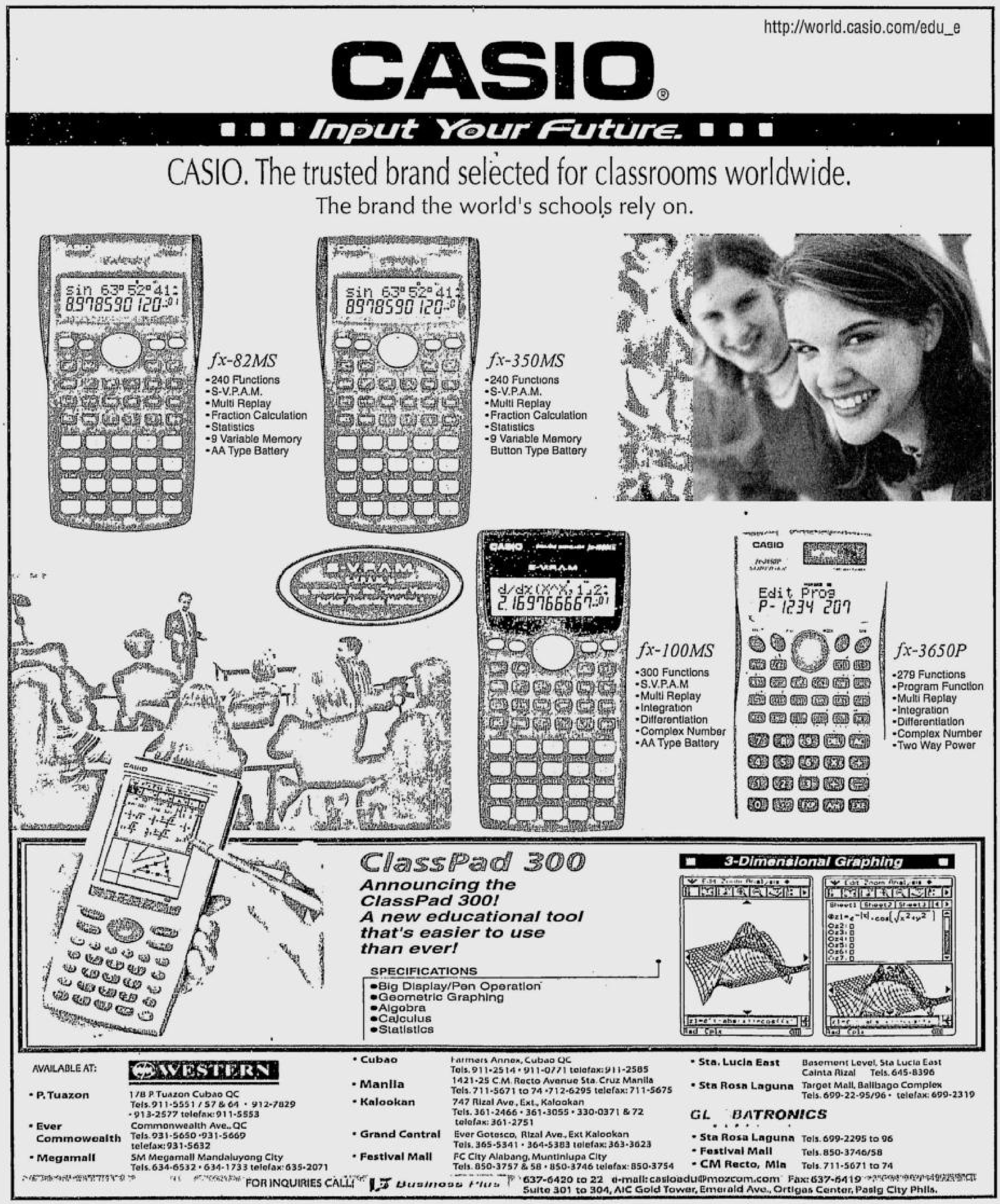
Page No. 64
Series of 2003



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- Sta Rosa Laguna Target Mall, Balibago Complex Tels. 699-22-95/96 • telefax: 699-2319

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Suite 301 to 304, AIC Gold Tower, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City Phils.

EU, JAPAN, CHINA WELCOME RULING

US vows to appeal WTO decision on steel tariffs

WASHINGTON—The United States vowed Friday to maintain tariffs to protect its struggling steel industry and said it would appeal a World Trade Organization decision calling the measures illegal.

"Where the (WTO) panel found against the United States, we disagree, and we will appeal," US Trade Representative spokesperson Richard Mills said in a statement after the WTO decision was announced in Geneva.

US President George W. Bush imposed the tariffs under the controversial section 201 of US trade law last year, which do not require evidence of "dumping" at unfair prices or with unfair subsidies.

He argued that temporary tariffs of up to 30 percent on most foreign steel were necessary to protect ailing US steel mills and their workers.

The move irked many US trading partners and some US steel-consuming industries, who argued that it had increased costs.

In Geneva, a panel of three independent experts at the WTO rejected the arguments laid down by the United States that its safeguard measures were needed because of increased steel imports that were hurting its domestic steel producers.

The European Union filed the complaint last year and was joined by Brazil, China, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea and Switzerland.

The European Union, Japan and other US trade partners have threatened retaliatory measures if the steel measures are not withdrawn.

"Steel consumers need for the steel tariffs to be terminated, because they are causing economic damage to the US economy. Now the international community has officially condemned this protectionist policy as a violation of global trading rules," said Consuming Industries Trade Action Coalition Steel Task Force chair William Gaskin.

"It simply makes no economic sense to keep these damaging tariffs that are causing devastation to US steel consumers, hurting our ability to lead on global trade matters and will result in retaliatory tariffs by the European Union." *AFP*

Enron files reorganization plan

HOUSTON—Enron Corp., whose record-shattering bankruptcy turned it into the ultimate symbol of corporate excesses, on Friday filed a reorganization plan that will probably pay creditors less than one-fifth of the $67 billion they are owed.

The plan comes 19 months after Enron's spectacular failure, which led to one of the costliest Chapter 11 bankruptcies in history with professional fees nearing $500 million.

If US Bankruptcy Judge Arthur Gonzalez in New York approves the reorganization plan, Enron would no longer exist as a single entity.

Rather, its interest in three pipelines and 19 international assets would be spun off into two separate companies whose shares would be distributed to creditors. Its other assets, including Oregon utility Portland General Electric, would be sold.

Interim chief executive and chief restructuring officer Stephen Cooper acknowledged in a conference call that Enron's plan was essentially a liquidation, but not in the traditional sense that nothing will remain.

The preliminary estimated recovery rate for creditors is 14.4 cents to 18.3 cents on the dollar, far lower than the corporate average. For example, many creditors of telecommunications company WorldCom Inc., which took the bankruptcy crown from Enron, are expected to fare about twice as well with a recovery rate of about 36 cents.

The plan also needs the approval of 50 percent of the creditors and holders of two-thirds of the dollar amount, which is likely, given that the plan had the tentative approval of the creditor's committee. *Reuters*

Wall St. firms fail great expectations test

NEW YORK—Investors hoping their recent rush into the stock market would be validated by strong second-quarter earnings may feel a little let down by the initial batch of corporate results.

In the first big week of earnings news, there were few of the shocks that hurt stocks in the past three years. But neither did results match the rosy predictions for a sharp increase in business activity and profits.

"We have to start hearing some positive talk if we're going to come close to meeting estimates for the second half," said Chuck Hill, research director at Thomson Financial First Call.

So far "there's nothing encouraging there about a second-half pickup materializing to the degree expected." Certainly investors expected better.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index of the largest US companies has climbed 24 percent since hitting its 2003 low on March 11.

Investors speculated that corporate earnings would rebound in the year's second half, buoyed by cuts in interest rates and taxes. Instead, business across almost every sector has been sluggish.

General Electric Co., the world's largest investor-owned company, on Friday cut its 2003 profit target to the bottom of its forecast range.

The conglomerate, often viewed as a proxy for the economy, saw lower turbine shipments and rising materials costs in its plastics business. *Reuters*

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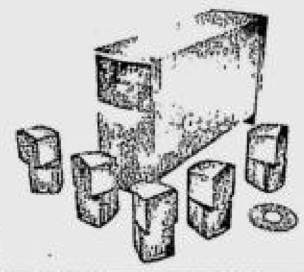

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Per DTI NCR Permit No 2744 Series of 2003

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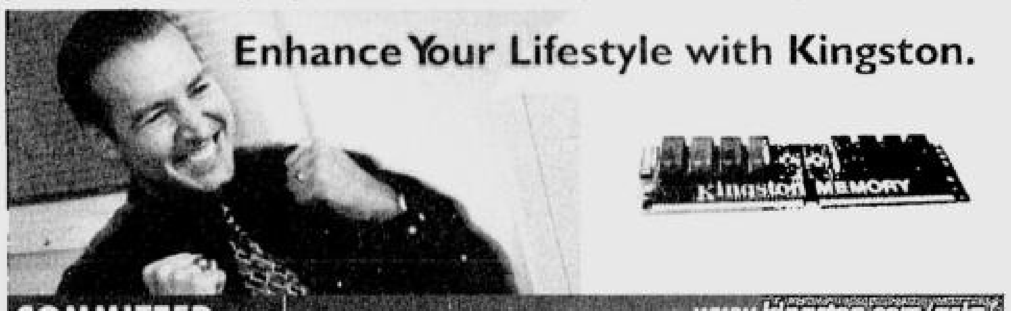

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PROMOTION DATES
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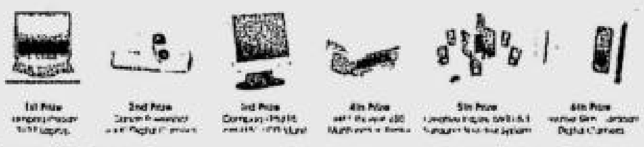

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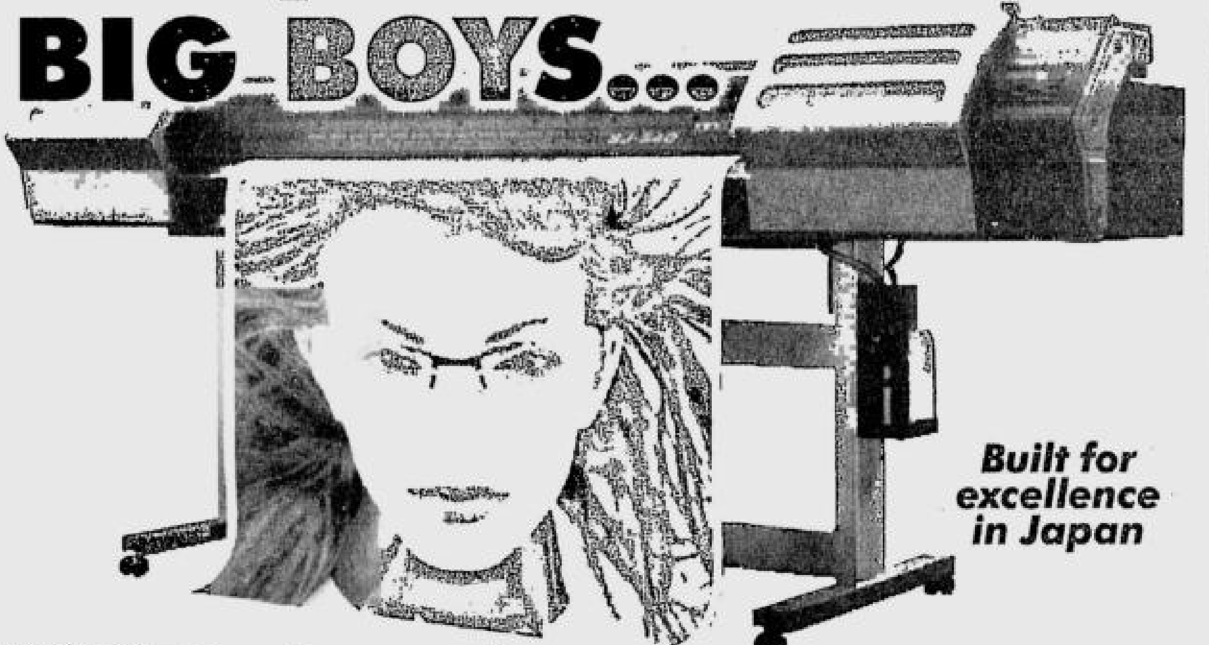

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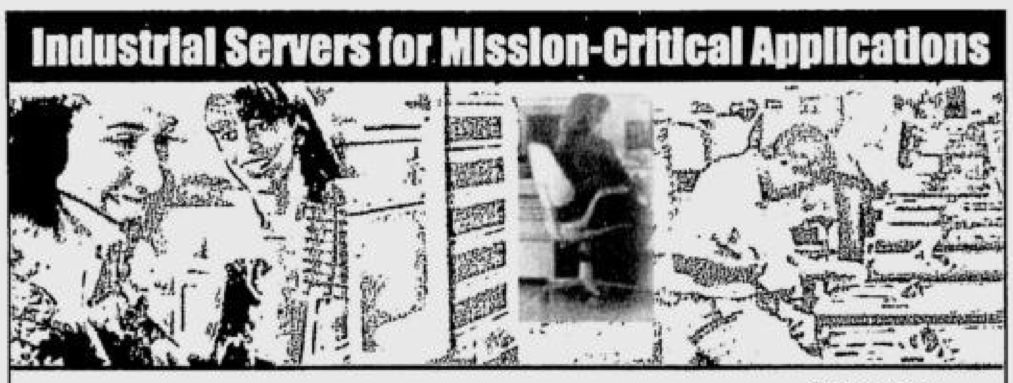

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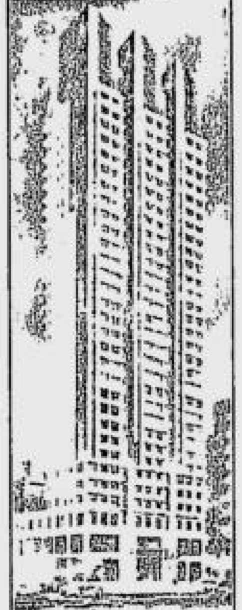

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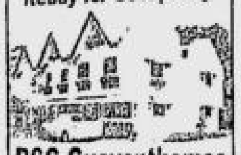

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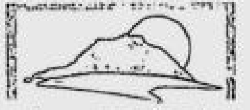

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid in the 2-Stage bid process for the **Upgrade of Philippine Marine Corp's V-150 Light Armor Systems**, with an approved budget of **One Hundred Seventy Million, Eight Hundred and Eighty Thousand Pesos (Php 170,880,000.00)** chargeable against the AFP Modernization Program CY 2000 and CY 2002 funds.

Only bids from entities which make, develop, fabricate, assemble, build or otherwise produce the V-150 and who have or will establish an in-country servicing capability for this type of armored vehicle shall be entertained.

1st stage bid documents will be available for issuance starting **July 14, 2003** until **August 1, 2003** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, GHQ, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Seventeen Thousand Pesos (Php 17,000.00)**, which is not refundable. The form of payment shall be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the 1st stage bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the said documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **August 1, 2003** at 09:00 a.m. (local time) at the Silid Panday Pira, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders may submit their query/ies, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat not later than three (3) working days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

The Bidder shall be allowed to inspect the V-150 and facilities upon purchase of the 1st stage bid documents until the deadline of submission of the 1st stage envelopes.

The deadline for submission of the 1st stage envelopes is on **August 28, 2003** at 08:30 a.m. (local time) to be followed by the opening of the 1st stage envelopes at 09:00 a.m. at the Silid Panday Pira. Only those bidders found to be eligible shall be allowed to participate in the 2nd stage bidding activities.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the grounds specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of his bid.

(Sgd.) ERNESTO G CAROLINA
Lieutenant General AFP
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(PDI - July 14 & 21, 2003)

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Mini Job Fair AT GLORIETTA

PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION, INC.

Responding to the need to revitalize the marketing sector by creating **New Markets, New Rules, New Strategies** and take advantage of the various opportunities within reach, the **Philippine Marketing Association** will officially celebrate **JULY** to be this year's National Marketing Month.

The **Philippine Marketing Association (PMA)**, with the special participation of **Inquirer's Job Market**, will hold a Trade Exhibit and a **Mini Job Fair** slated on **July 21 to 26, 2003** at the Glorietta Activity Center.

Eight (8) 4 sq. meter panel booths are allotted for the job fair in six (6) days . Job fair participants are given an option to a 3-day or 6-day exhibition. Should you wish to participate and be one the exhibitors, please find below the mini job fair packages:

- A half-page placement in the July-20 issue of Job Market entitles advertiser to a **FREE 2m x 2m panel booth** for three (3) days;
- A one-fourth placement in the July-20 issue of Job Market entitles advertiser to a **discounted fee of the panel booth for three (3) days (Php 7,500)**;
- A minimum placement of 60 col. cm. in the July-20 issue of Job Market entitles advertiser to a **FREE Pigeonhole**.

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Touch Mobile reaches out to more people via mobile stores

TOUCH Mobile has found a proactive way of reaching out to more customers and generate higher sales despite the very tight competition among GSM brands today.

Touch Mobile recently launched the Touch Mobile stores, a guerilla fleet of full-merchandised vans roaming the regional suburbs, with agents determined to saturate specific locations, going street by street to offer its Super Value SIM packs. These stores reach out to those households, offices, schools and shops which, by virtue of their remote locations, have remained unserved by traditional cell phone sales outlets. Even while waiting for stoplights to turn green, the Mobile Stores are hard at work, offering Touch Mobile to new customers.

This innovation is on top of Touch Mobile's TouchMania selling blitzes consisting of monthly waves of booth selling in high-traffic shopping malls nationwide.

The Touch Mobile Stores can be seen going around industrial parks, offices, residential, private and government buildings within Metro Manila and other key cities in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

The stores are also scheduled to be fielded for promotional blitzes during town fiestas and seasonal events like Independence Day, "Flores de Mayo", All Saints Day and Christmas. They can also be seen at school activities and local events.

With its low per-minute rates, clarity of calls, strong signals, speed in text messaging, unparalleled voice value added services and SIM packs for only P140, Touch Mobile continues to be the brand that provides the best value today.

PHILAM PLANS MARKS 14TH YEAR WITH EMPLOYEE AWARDS

Philam Plans recently marked its 14th anniversary celebrations with an awarding ceremony for its loyal and dedicated employees. Shown with president and CEO Jesus G. Hofileña, FLMI, LLIF, and operations senior vice president Reynaldo Gatcheco Jr. (left and right, respectively) are the company's outstanding employees (from left, 1st row) Myrna Rodriguez and Joycelyn Resurrecion, (from left, 2nd row) Lourdes Ranot, Ric Queddeng and Lea Balbuena.

WILD VINES OUTSTANDING SOCIAL WINE BRAND

Wild Vines, the wild new taste in wines, was recently awarded the 2003 Asia Pacific Excellence Award for Outstanding Social Wines Brand. Receiving the trophy from Senator Robert Barbers is Von Hizon, managing director for International Brands The Andresons Group (Wild Vines distributor). Looking on are Lloyd Dizon (center), product manager for Gallo Wines, The Andresons Group, Rev. Dr. Sonia Y. Lim (2nd from right) and other presenters. Other products being distributed by the Andresons Group which received awards are Emperador Brandy (Outstanding Brandy) and Campbell's Soup as (Outstanding Canned Soup Brand).

Matsushita Electric beefs up customer service

MATSUSHITA Electric Philippines Corp. (Mepco), the country's leading maker and distributor of electronics and electrical appliances, will strengthen its customer service thrusts in an effort to firm up its leadership in the local market.

This was revealed by Mepco president Yukiharu Kubota during the recent 2003 Mepco/PCIP Suppliers Commendation Awards as the company embarks on a brand unification campaign, which starts this October.

Despite the brand unification with Panasonic, Kubota said that after sales support would still be extended to existing owners of National electronics and electrical appliances. At present, Mepco has the biggest service network with more than 250 authorized service centers nationwide.

"Through our sales division, Mepco continually strives to expand our sales, service and distribution networks to make National/Panasonic products and service conveniently available to our customers," Kubota says. Part of the company's strengthened service support program is the holding of a series of seminars for technicians and dealers to familiarize themselves with new product models.

Kubota says that the passion to provide strong after sales service to customers is a legacy of Matsushita Electric (Japan) founder Konosuke Matsushita.

"The goods we make here everyday are like children we raise with tender care. Selling them is like seeing those children grow up and go out into the world. It is only natural then, that we should be concerned about how they are getting on with their lives, and so go and see for yourselves," Kubota says these were the famous lines uttered by Konosuke Matsushita.

These words have guided Mepco towards building an ordinary supplier-client relationship into an extraordinary bond that is based on mutual trust.

NBS JOINS BOOK FAIR

National Bookstore is all set to join the Manila International Book Fair anew, bringing in fresh titles by local and foreign publishers, a wide variety of books not yet available in the stores. The Manila International Book Fair is the premier event in the book industry and gathers publishers, retailers and everyone involved in the business of books. It is organized by Primetrade Asia and slated from Aug. 30 to Sept. 7 at the Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall. At the contract signing are (left) Irene Lloren, president of Primetrade Asia Inc. and Socorro Ramos, general manager of National Bookstore.

DSAP
CERTIFICATE COURSE

CERTIFICATE COURSE IN DIRECT SELLING AND NETWORK MARKETING

More than a hundred delegates attended the 2-day certificate course presented by De La Salle University (DLSU) and Direct Selling Association of the Philippines (DSAP). The speakers, composed of industry leaders, top professors and top distributors of DSAP member companies, shared with the participants the professional skills needed to succeed in the trade. Shown are (from left) Suzanne Cornagon, corporate services manager of Amway Philippines LLC, Marivic Go, distributor of Tupperware Philippines Inc., Christina Boyd, independent executive sales director of Mary Kay Philippines Inc. and Eric Lee, diamond direct, Amway Philippines LLC.

K-Swiss launches Tongue Twister collection

K-SWISS, one of the country's leading names in athletic footwear, formally launches its latest innovation called Tongue Twister via a hip and happening party at the Club V in Makati City.

The last in a three-leg bar tour, the party featured performances by some of the most notable names in the hip-hop music scene, namely Sun Valley Crew and Seven Shots.

The party mood was put into high gear with music provided by versatile spinners Pikaso, DJ Krystyles, DJ Phatbone and MC Nathan J.

The guests were treated to a night of hip-hop music, loads of food and drinks and lots of prizes given away during the 3-hour extravaganza made possible through a tie-up with MTV Piipinas in the helm of production and implementation of this hip, hot event.

"K-Swiss has always been in touch with the needs and wants of its target market. And with our Tongue Twister collection, we hope to better serve the growing needs of our top clientele—the youth sector," said May Carla Pastor, vice president for marketing of Global Brands, the licensed distributor of K-Swiss in the Philippines.

The Tongue Twister collection features an updated, more prominent 5-stripes and K-Swiss shield logo and the unique U-Turn technology that reveals a dual-color reversible flap by simply twisting the tongue of the shoes. Like all other K-Swiss shoes, tongue twister comes with the revolutionary Shock Spring technology meant to provide protection and comfort from heel to toe.

"K-Swiss has always been at the forefront of innovation in the industry and the Tongue Twister is proof of its commitment to quality merchandise to improve the lifestyle of the hip and trendy youth of today," added Pastor.

The tongue twister collection comes in different styles such as Nido, Super V, ST 345 and SP249 available in white, navy and ice, white and classic blue, white and navy, and white, navy and silver.

Fressan
Bakery

FRESSAN BRANCH OPENING

Fressan Bakery recently opened its new branch located in Festival Mall, Alabang. Committed to serving high-quality and satisfying baked products, Fressan has already established 14 branches from Metro Manila to Baguio City. Shown during the branch opening were (from left) Patty Ortiz, Greg Castillo, Joanna Maria Peñaloza (Bb. Pilipinas-International 2000), lawyer Henry Reyes (City Administrator, Muntinlupa City), Peachy Castillo (franchisee) Ms Reyes, and Kristina Calinawan, Fressan marketing supervisor.

Clips

Web Awards nominations open

THE 6TH Philippine Web Awards, the most awaited event in the local online community, is accepting nominations for the country's best Web sites. Nominations can be sent by logging on to the official site of the Philippine Web Awards, www.philippinewebawards.com, which was developed by Softrigger Interactive and is officially hosted by Bitstop Inc. To be eligible for nomination, Web sites must be developed and owned primarily by Filipinos, should not contain illegal or offensive material, such as pornography or violence, and must be accessible to the general public. The nomination period for this year's Web Awards ends on July 15 at 11:59 p.m. The 6th Philippine Web Awards night slated Nov. 6 at Onstage Theater Greenbelt is made possible by Enterprise Magazine, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Computerworld Philippines, ITNetcentral and PC World Magazine.

Math, marketing seminar

NOW ON its 6th workshop run, the successful enhanced course of Math in Marketing is on July 15 and 16 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City. The seminar discusses the principles, theories and strategic applications of traditional and non-traditional marketing wherein analytical methods and quantitative techniques are introduced to achieve marketing objectives. Speaker marketing expert Ricky de Vera is the only sales and marketing trainer certified by the Philippine Trade and Training Center (Asean Center of Excellence). Meeting Points International is an affiliate of Expotrade and specializes in conceptualizing, marketing and management of seminar programs for public offerings and in-house training. For more details, call 895-5735 and 895-2363.

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Tutorial course on Web writing

THE ASIAN Institute of Journalism and Communication will offer a tutorial course on Web Writing on July 17 and 18 at the AIJC conference room at Annapolis Wilshire Plaza, Annapolis Street, Greenhills, San Juan. The course will teach attendees the techniques and principles in Web writing, basic Web design, organizing content, and application of graphics. It will also cover how to double a website's usability and insure that key messages are communicated. For more information, call 727-6799, 725-4228, 724-4564 or 724-4604 or e-mail aijcmla@info.com.ph.

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Editor Leo Magno

Meralco willing to free up Wi-Fi band but with restrictions, compensation

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

UTILITY firm Manila Electric Co. said it is not against government plans to lift the ban on the use of the 2.4-Gigahertz frequency band but suggested that certain restrictions should be imposed and that it should be compensated for the cost to transfer to another band.

Meralco is using the 2.4-Ghz frequency band for its electrical monitoring system. However, this is also the band used by the 802.11b wireless fidelity (Wi-Fi) technology, which allows wireless network access. Wi-Fi provides Internet access to computers within the range of "hotspots" or areas covered by a Wi-Fi provider's radio signal.

"We want it opened up and shared to other players but with certain restrictions such as the power output of the antenna (for spread spectrum technology equipment)," said Eliseo Palomo, senior superintendent and head of the telecommunications planning and design of Meralco. "We're not closing our doors because of innovations in technology. But we want to establish a win-win situation for everyone."

In a separate interview, Meralco president Jesus Francisco said the utility firm should be compensated for the cost to transfer to another band. Francisco also echoed Palomo's statement.

"A win-win proposal could be for the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) to give us another band to transfer to and for the parties concerned to compensate Meralco for the costs to move to that frequency," Francisco told reporters.

Meralco is now being pressured by different sectors to move out of the 2.4-Ghz frequency band with the explosion of Wi-Fi in the country.

The NTC currently bans the use of the 2.4-Ghz band in the National Capital Region, Region 3 and 4, which are franchise areas of Meralco.

Palomo, however, said that NTC rules state that the government will have to pay for the cost of Meralco's equipment in the event that it forces the company out of the frequency.

According to the official, the life cycle of Meralco's equipment which is using the 2.4-Ghz frequency lasts till 2012.

"That is the economic life span of the equipment," he added.

He said that Meralco is using the system—acquired through 1993 and 1996—on the 2.4-Ghz band to control and monitor the electrical system in the region. The system—supervisory control and data acquisition (Scada)—was acquired through a World Bank loan to the tune of $300 million, Palomo said.

Palomo said that this is not the first time that the government has forced the company to move out of a frequency band to give way to new technology. A Meralco official told reporters that Meralco had to move out of the 900-MHz frequency band when cellular phone technology came into the country.

Palomo said the NTC then assigned the 2.4-Ghz frequency band to Meralco for use of its Scada system.

In a public hearing Friday, Meralco suggested that the NTC limit the use of spread spectrum technology equipment to a certain power to prevent interference with their Scada system. It also suggested that operators of Wi-Fi systems should coordinate with Meralco to prevent interferences, the official said.

"We want to share the frequency, but we just want to establish a working relationship with Wi-Fi service providers," Palomo said.

The Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Globe Telecom Inc. also provide Internet access through Wi-Fi on the 2.4-Ghz frequency, despite an existing regulation prohibiting its commercial use.

Earlier, NTC common carrier authorization department head Edgardo Cabarios said the commercial use of Wi-Fi technology in certain regions of the country, including Metro Manila, was illegal under a law enacted in the 1930s.

The NTC directed non-carriers and suppliers of Wi-Fi equipment to submit their position papers before the agency holds its next hearing on Wi-Fi on July 17.

A draft NTC guideline, to be discussed on the July 17 hearing, is set to lift the ban on the use of the 2.4-Ghz frequency band in the NCR, Regions 3 and 4. This would pave the way for unfettered use of Wi-Fi throughout the country without legal and regulatory restrictions.

Report says smaller ISPs to die out in a few years

By Erwin Oliva

A RECENT report suggested that smaller Internet service providers (ISPs) in the Philippines are expected to go out of business over the next few years due to stiffer competition from carriers and plunging prices.

According to the DigitalFilipino report "State of the Philippine Internet Service Provider Industry," bigger players will dominate the industry, while smaller players leasing infrastructure from carriers which are also offering access services will become extinct in one to two years.

The report was published on June 30, 2003 by DigitalFilipino.

The report said that Internet service providers—particularly those based in the rural areas—will have more difficulty competing with the carriers which have a bigger, more stable customer base and lower prices.

Smaller players cannot make enough margins to survive or even compete with carriers, the report added.

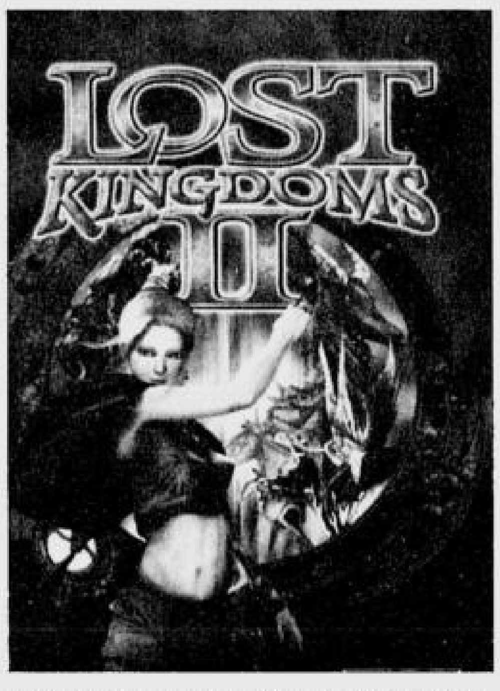
The report also predicted that smaller ISPs would soon be relegated to becoming Internet cafés or PC rental shops.

In light of this development, the government should step in and help smaller players compete with the bigger players, the report said. The government needs to set rules and regulations to get rid of unfair competition aimed at smaller ISPs, the report suggested.

ISPs cannot simply compete with the pricing of carriers which have recently entered the mass market for Internet services. The intent to bring the cost of access services down is essentially killing smaller players, the report said.

RPG offers fresh card-based gameplay

By Leo Magno



I'LL lay my cards on the table for this review of "Lost Kingdoms II." This RPG (role-playing game) with a card-based battle system got a lot of flak from magazine reviews, but I found it thoroughly enjoyable.

Lost Kingdoms II, developed by From Software and published by Activision for the Nintendo GameCube, is like a mixture of Pokemon and Yu-Gi-Oh set in a fully 3D world with real-time battles. You get to play as Tara Grimface, the long lost twin daughter of Ashiannu, queen of the kingdom of Argwyll. Tara, whose real name is Adriannu, was separated from her twin sister because the kingdom's elders thought that two direct descendants fighting over one throne would ruin the kingdom.

But let's forget about the story behind Lost Kingdoms II because honestly, the story sucks harder than a vacuum cleaner.

What shines for this game is the unique card-based battle system. If you've played Yu-Gi-Oh on the PS2, you'd know that the cards in that game are used to summon monsters to fight turn-based (one after the other) on a chessboard-like battlefield with rules similar to Game of the Generals: the monster with the bigger balls wins. In Lost Kingdoms II, you're moving in real-time and enemies come at you fast. This is where you use your cards.

Tara has a deck of 30 cards which are picked up in treasure chests she finds along the way. These cards consist of independents (creatures who appear and fight alongside you independently for a limited amount of time), summon (creatures you can summon for a one-time attack which deals a lot of damage), weapon (a card you can use several times like a sword, inflicting damage on the enemy from close range), helper (creatures which aid you by making you move faster, healing you, etc.) and transform (cards that allow you to briefly transform to another creature with certain powers). Another card called a "capture card" can be found in one of the towns in the world map. They're sold by a guy who's hiding behind a statue (I had a hard time finding the guy, so I won't tell you where he is exactly). By using capture cards Pokemon-style, you can seal a creature into that card by dealing the final blow with it.

As you gain experience points, you can copy or upgrade your cards at two card shops found in the world map. You can then arrange your deck and create up to eight different decks to deal with certain situations. This is crucial because some creatures which belong to opposing elements won't be affected by certain cards, and some situations require you to use cards of a certain type.

We review this game on the GameCube

This is where the beauty of Lost Kingdoms II lies: the planning, the strategizing and the frenetic battle scenes wherein sometimes you'd be surrounded. Whipping out the right cards and skipping the next one in your deck if they don't fit the battle situation will be crucial since Tara herself cannot directly fight her enemies. She is dependent on her cards.

There are more than 220 cards in Lost Kingdoms II. Some of them are contained in treasure chests which you can't reach till you get a certain type of card—usually a card that transforms you into another creature. Tara can't jump or fly or break down walls, so you have to find a transform card that will enable her to do that to get to a treasure chest.

After clearing an area and completing a mission, Tara can still go back to that area in the world map to get treasure chests which she left unopened or to get more experience points by fighting the enemies in that level over and over again.

The game also has a Versus mode, where the Tara character saved at a certain level with a certain amount of cards and experience can be matched with another one from another saved game.

The biggest downside to this game is that it's so short. I could have finished the game in 15 hours, but since I went back to all of the places I've been in order to open the chests I left behind, and since I fought the same enemies over and over again to gain experience points, I finished the game in more than 20 hours. Before I knew it, I was at the maximum experience point level with maximum health. And, after an anti-climactic battle with the final boss, the game was over. This was so unfair since I wanted to finish the other side quests and challenge arenas.

The character development in Lost Kingdoms II won't please RPG veterans. Don't expect a deep development ladder for your character here à la the Sphere Grid of Final Fantasy X for the PS2. Lost Kingdoms II is not even one-fifth as long as FFX. However, building up your card base, duplicating and upgrading them proved to be a lot of fun.

But, if you want a fresh battle system in an RPG especially if you're tired of the usual turn-based battle ho-hum of most RPGs out there, the real-time card-based fights in Lost Kingdoms II would be a welcome change. The battles aren't even random. You can see the enemies milling about, and they can actually attack you from afar, unless you sneak around them and avoid a fight.

All in all, I think Lost Kingdoms II—like the original Lost Kingdoms—is one under-appreciated game. It's fresh, it's fun and offers new gameplay elements. Too bad the reviews focused too much on the graphics and camera angles. But gameplay-wise, Lost Kingdoms II is a game I plan to play again simply because it's fun.

RP gov't might face problems in taking over '.ph' domain

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission (NTC) might face some legal difficulties with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) once the Philippine government appoints the agency as the "oversight" body governing the ".ph" domain name, according to an NTC official.

"Since NTC has to deal with ICANN, can the agency submit itself to the body's policies?" asked Edgardo Cabarios, director of the common carrier division of the NTC.

ICANN is a California-based non-profit corporation that was formed to assume responsibility for global allocation of Internet address space, as well as the domain name system management that was previously performed under the US government by the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) and other entities.

ICANN assumed the responsibility to oversee technical coordination of the domain name system, which allows Internet addresses to be found by easy-to-remember names—ending in ".com" or ".net"—instead of numbers.

Aside from the familiar domain name extensions like ".com," there also exist country-code top-level domain (ccTLD) names like ".uk" for the United Kingdom or ".ph" for the Philippines.

Jose Emmanuel Disini is now the administrator of the ".ph" domain. He is also chief executive of dotPH, the sole registry of the ".ph" domain in the Philippines.

However, the Information Technology and E-commerce Council (ITECC) has asked the NTC to draft the guidelines on how it would oversee the domain name registration of the ".ph" domain, according to ITECC executive director Virgilio Peña in a separate interview.

ITECC is the country's highest authority on information technology and communications matters.

Such a move would wrest control of the ".ph" domain from a private entity to the Philippine government.

Cabarios, however, said that the guidelines should take into account situations when conflict can arise between the NTC and dotPH.

"What if there is disagreement between the agency and (Disini)? Who will make the ruling?" said Cabarios.

Cabarios suggested that the NTC should instead be given "oversight" functions rather than regulatory powers as earlier proposed by ITECC.

Peña clarified, however, that the NTC would indeed assume "oversight" functions since the government still recognizes Disini as ccTLD administrator for ".ph."

"I have issued a directive to NTC to come up with guidelines related to its oversight function," Peña said, reiterating that an advisory body would also be created to help agency on issues related to ".ph" domain registry.

Some of these issues involve the fact that dotPH is the sole body authorized to distribute ".ph" domains on a commercial basis, pricing issues and the move by dotPH to push the ".ph" domain not as "Philippines" but as "phone."

"NTC will make sure that dotPH is performing according to guidelines that will be set by government," Peña added.

Part of the guidelines include allowing the NTC to intervene when complaints against dotPH are raised, Peña said.

"Eventually, if dotPH fails to comply with the guidelines set, sanctions will be imposed, including possible government takeover," he added.

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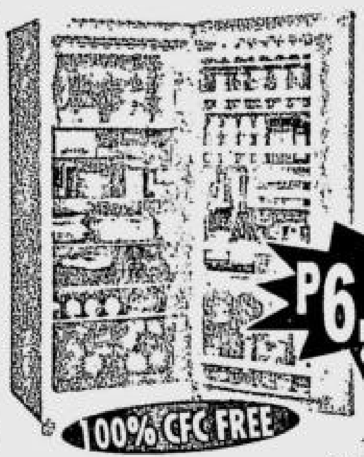
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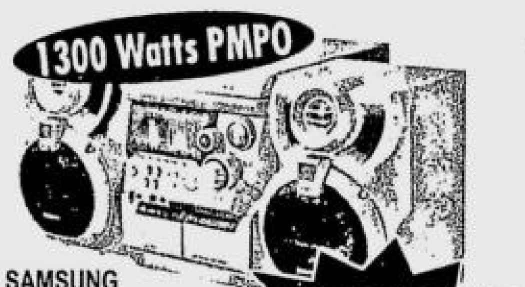
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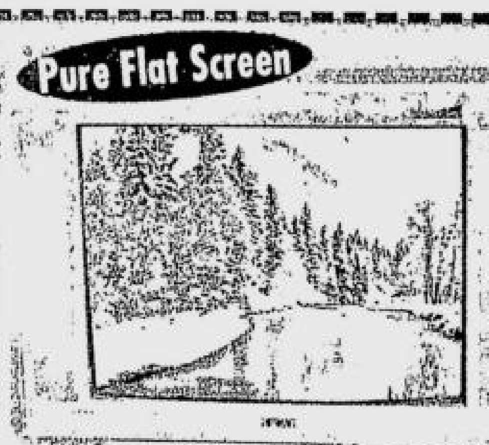
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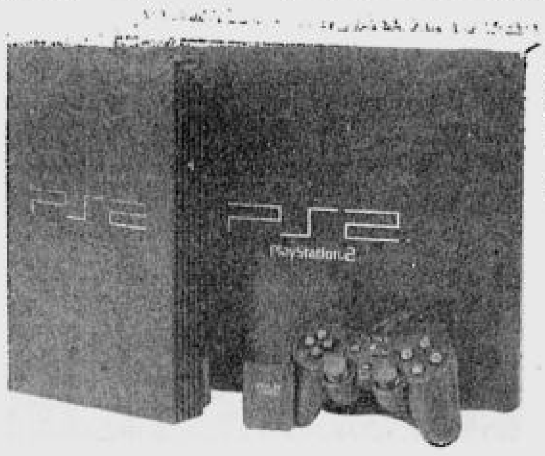
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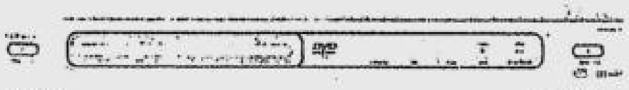

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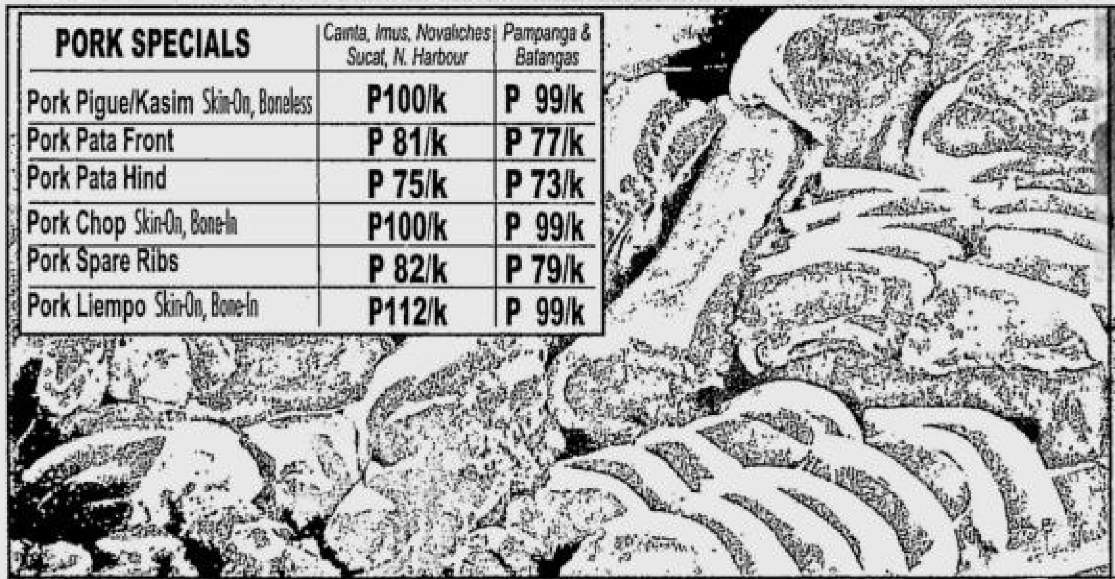

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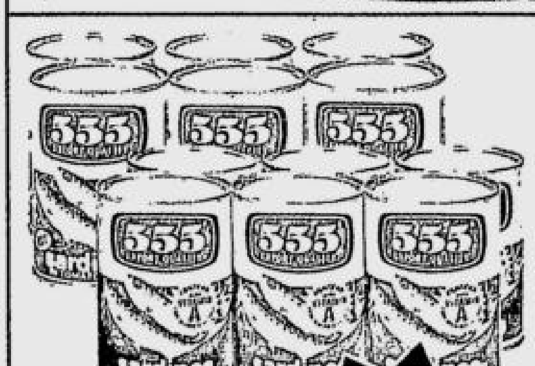
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'Corporate citizenship impacts on brand'

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MILTON Friedman, a noted '70s economist was famous for his quotes, "The business of business is business" and "The social responsibility of business is to increase its profits."

Thirty years later, many of today's corporations still share this view but Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, chief executive of the Ayala group of companies, said during the recently concluded Corporate Social Responsibility Week, organized by the League of Corporate Foundations, that more and more corporations and chief executives have long distanced themselves from this myopic mind-set.

During his talk on corporate responsibility, Zobel stressed that corporate citizenship has become analogous to individual citizenship in society.

"At its most basic level, corporate citizenship theory sees the corporation as having certain economic, legal, environmental and social responsibilities to fulfill as a member of society," he said.

Financially viable

Zobel, however, stressed that for corporations to become effective in its efforts to galvanize changes, these firms must first be financially and economically viable.

"Let me stress this point—a distressed, ailing or bankrupt company is hardly in a position to help sustain itself, much less society as a whole. We therefore need first and foremost to run our businesses well and make profits, for that is the only way we can contribute to social development in the long term," he said.

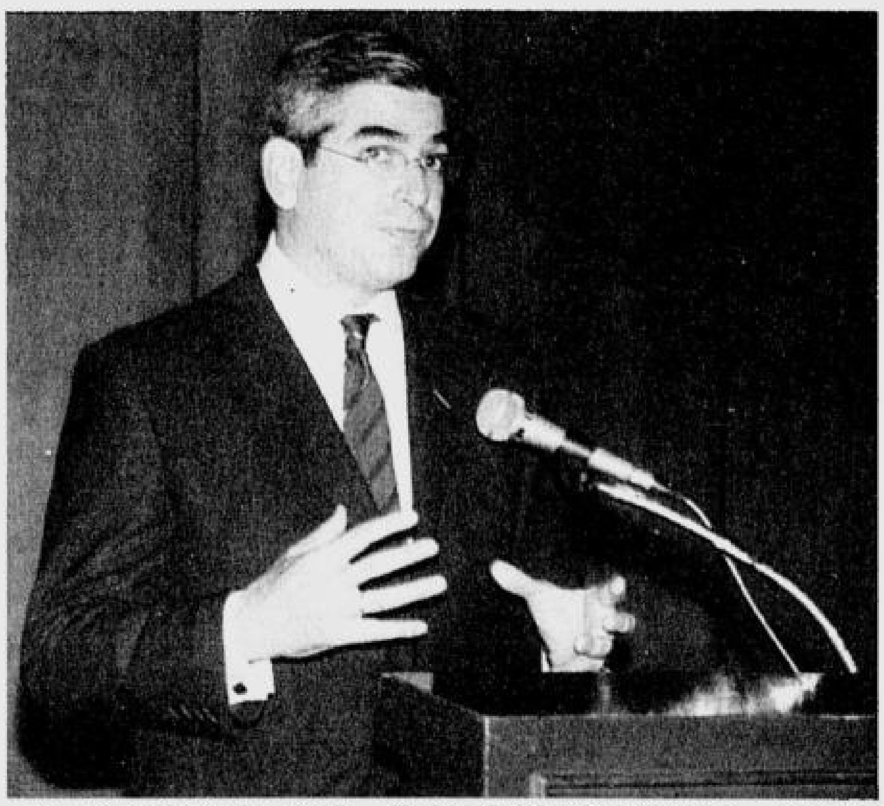
"That said, a company has other, equally important responsibilities. It has a legal responsibility in that it must work within the boundaries of the law and should pay its fair share of taxes to the government. It has an environmental responsibility in that it must ensure that its operations and products do no harm to the environment. And it has a social responsibility in that it should contribute to the uplifting and developing the communities in which it does business," Zobel added.

Stark realities

With government's budget strained toward providing the most basic of services to the public, it is up to the private sector to help fill up the gap in uplifting the Filipino way of life.

In the area of child development, a report entitled, "The State of Filipino Children 2002," was noted that only 56 percent of the close to four million Filipino children up to six years old have access to early childhood education.

There are at least 44,000 children aged 5-17 living on our city streets and there are about 100,000 more children who are victims of the commercial sex trade, mostly girls aged 10-18.



On the environment, the report of the World Wildlife Fund-Philippines, stated that as much as 95 percent of "old growth" forests have been lost to logging, legal or otherwise, over the past 100 years.

Only 5 percent of our 25,000 square kilometers of coral reefs are in an ideal condition to sustain the marine ecosystem.

"My purpose here is not to shock or depress you but merely to paint a picture of the stark reality that confronts our society today. Clearly, there is a growing need for all of us, both as individuals and as organizations, to do more in this uphill struggle of reducing our social inequities. There are countless opportunities for engaging in corporate citizenship," Zobel said.

Companies here and abroad have actually engaged in some form of corporate citizenship even during the time of Milton Friedman, but at that time the response tended to be minimalist.

Citizenship of old

At that time, it was enough for a corporation to be considered a "responsible citizen" as long as it obeys the law, pays taxes, and does its part in helping grow the economy, which in turn fuels social progress.

The world that Friedman faced in the '70s has significantly changed, however, and with these changes the concept of corporate citizenship, especially in developing countries such as the Philippines.

> 'Being socially responsible can be, and almost always is, a win-win situation'
> –Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala

"Where most of the resources are in the hands of the private sector, there is a broader responsibility that corporations must bear. Because of the access we have to capital, because of the number of people that work within our organizations, because of our undeniable influence on society, we do have the responsibility of helping create the kind of environment that would have a positive impact," Zobel said.

He said that it has become increasingly evident in recent times that the business environment as a whole is reshaping attitudes and values to one that is not entirely based on making more and more profit.

A 2002 CEO survey on corporate citizenship conducted by the influential The Conference Board found that:

- 92 percent of companies have a citizenship goal embedded in their statement of core values or business principles;
- 64 percent have conducted a strategic review of their corporate citizenship policies; and
- Of the 36 percent who have not, more than half are considering such a review in the near future.

"At the heart of the new corporate citizenship model is the belief that in an increasingly globalized environment, the role and

CORPORATE/ B2-2

Get your first export order

By Arlene Eleanor E. Liberal
Contributor, UP ISSI

GROWING YOUR BUSINESS

A STUDY done years ago found that many managers of small businesses believe the myth that only large enterprises can handle the technical details of exporting.

Many SMEs, including those with excellent products, see foreign marketing as distant, strange and risky territory.

All too often, it takes only a first export order and going through the process of serving it for an SME to gather enough confidence to become a true-blue exporter. Once it takes the first crucial plunge and becomes successful in it, the small business in time becomes an expert global player.

Before it does this, however, the first crucial step is to get an export order.

This article gives the aspiring exporter with information and guidelines on how to get export orders.

Experiences of successful exporters show the following activities as important in getting export orders:

Participation in trade fairs

Prior to the participation in a trade fair, you must produce enough samples for display during the event.

In addition, your firm must be ready to answer the questions on the price of the product and the volume you can produce over a period of time either daily, weekly or monthly basis.

It is better to participate in a trade fair with a brochure or product catalogue. Because space is limited during trade fairs, and not all the products can be displayed, your brochure will show the array of products you have available.

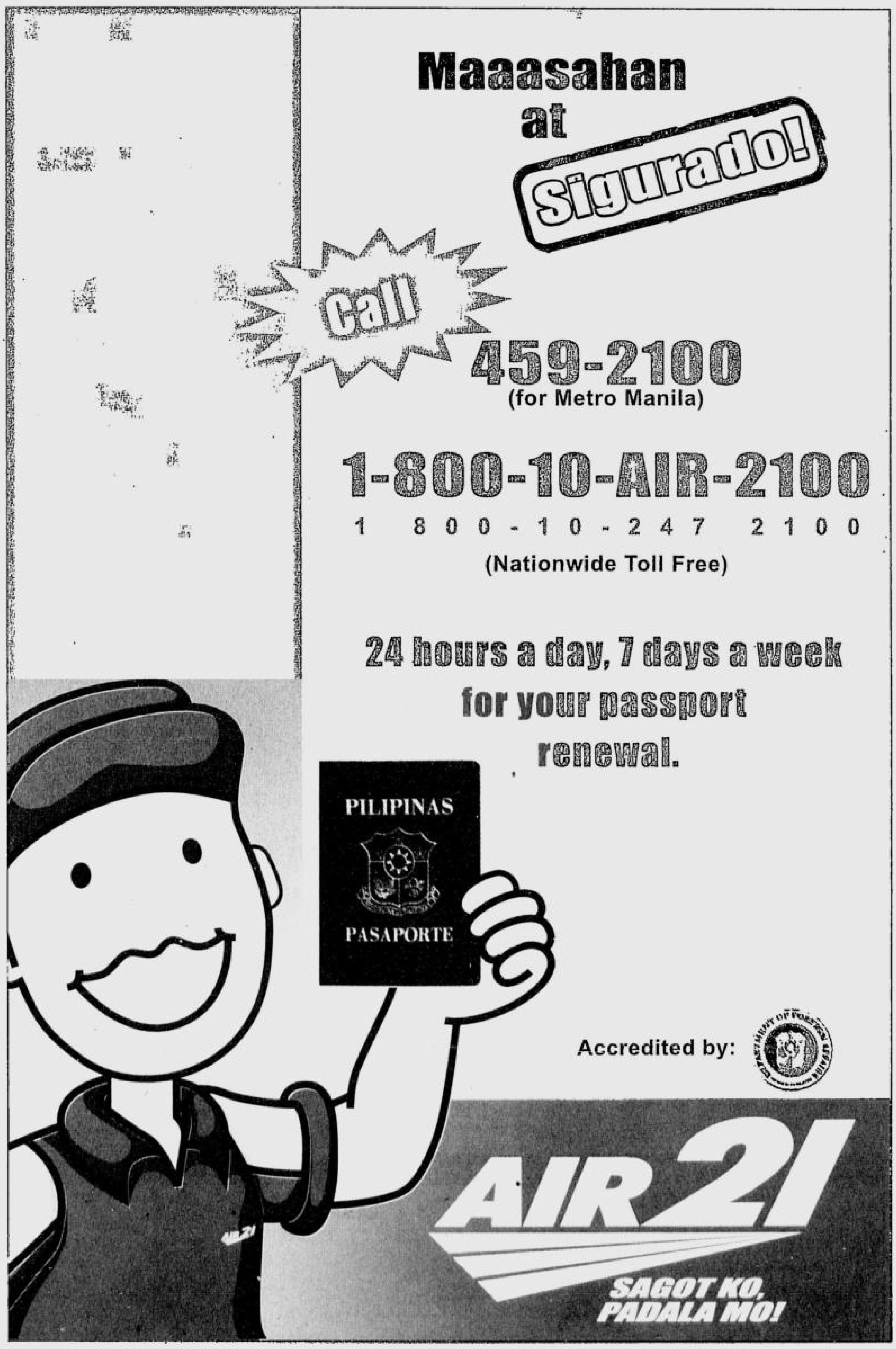
Your customers can bring it home and place orders long after the trade fair is over.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), through its various implementing agencies like the Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprises Development (BSMED) and the Center for International Trade Expositions and Mission (Citem) facilitate the conduct of regular trade fairs.

In addition, private groups especially the industry associations like Philippine Food Processors and Exporters (Philfoodex), Chamber of Furniture Industry of the Philippines (CFIP), Association of Negros Producers (ANP) and so many more also mount their own trade fairs. The DTI trade fairs are usually organized at the municipal level, provincial, regional, and national level and finally on the international level.

Sometimes a fair focuses on a particular sub-sector such as food, handicrafts, fashion jewelry, etc. Very often it covers all sectors. The private groups usually follow the same pattern in holding trade fairs, although they may skip the municipal level and go for the re-

GET/ B2-2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Credit for the poor: Panacea or placebo?

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Antonio T. Hernandez

(First of two parts)

POVERTY still remains the most critical concern in developing economies, and credit for the poor the most talked-about program of relief.

This poverty-credit tandem is so deeply rooted and entrenched that it has been the subject of endless debates, symposia and legislations.

Indeed, we see a lot of organizations—government and nongovernment alike—as well as individuals espousing various policy initiatives and credit support programs in this seemingly never-ending war against poverty.

At close range, these initiatives at poverty alleviation are hardly new in terms of their objectives to help improve the lives of the poor. What is amazing are the innumerable strategies and mechanisms purportedly designed to address the condition of this disadvantaged sector.

In all instances, the provision of cheap credit appears to be a constant, employed in no small measure by both government and other generous funding organizations throughout.

While usually they start great, they often end up with the same frustrating results. Neither is it uncommon for target clients to remain poor after the program winds up, and to find themselves left out until another program is unveiled by another sponsor.

Past initiatives

Remember the various rural credit projects of the past? The likes of the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran, the Maisan 77, Project Self Reliance and a host of others? Where have all those vaunted programs gone? The level of poverty had not at all abated!

As it is, the poor, the self-rated poor, seems generally stuck being poor—casually content that benefits keep coming their way in the name of poverty. And in no time poverty develops a bizarre magnetism that sucks in even the good ones who likewise begin to fancy that it pays to feign poverty and yes, even delinquency, because in the obtaining scheme of things, it is to them that the incentives, the forbearance and assistance flow.

Once enervated by indulgent assistance terms, poverty tends to beget poverty. Multiplying in number, poverty becomes power ... and expands on to a fertile ground for even more exploitation.

Why is this so? Where lies the flaw? Is it intrinsic to the program? Or is it in the motive of the sponsor?

It may indeed be worthwhile to look back once more and take some fresh reflections and ask ourselves more seriously:

- What lessons can be learned from past exercises in credit assistance to the poor?
- How do we make poverty alleviation programs self-sustaining, with constructive impact accruing to the target clientele themselves for the long term?

Poverty incidence in the country has spiraled from 35.5 percent in 1994 to 36.8 percent in 1997 to 38.3 percent at end of 2001. This aberration heightens the pressure on poverty alleviation efforts and consequently on credit support programs.

But whether the full benefit of credit support programs really cascade down to whom it is intended, or is sadly diffused and lost in the process-flow, can be discerned from the programs' results.

The initial inventory of credit programs made by the National Credit Council (NCC) in 1995-96 indicated 111 credit programs being implemented by various government units.

And most of these units are non-financial agencies with no lending and/or supervision-collection specializations. While they have specific technical and capability-building mandates to look after, like intensifying social preparation services or maintaining and improving public infrastructure support (which, if attended well, should improve the risk-reward equation in rural finance), they opt to go lending as well.

With subsidized credit programs, they crowd out the legitimate private sector intermediaries and discourage sustainable credit sources. What is worrisome, we are not rich enough to sustain subsidies for long. And when the subsidies run out, the borrowers are left out more hard put adjusting to market reality.

Clearly, this translates to market distortions and wasteful overlaps, to non-participation of private capital, to sidelining of vital rural infrastructure support, and ultimately, to agencies' loss of focus and sense of purpose which end in inefficiencies and greater incidence of delinquencies.

The consequent inadequacy in physical rural support facilities for one, i.e., power, feeder roads, health services and the like (which are basically public investment items rather than micro credit responsibility) understandably constrain the speedy and sustained growth of countryside industries. In effect, it slackens economic activities and impedes job opportunities essential to an improved rural income.

The lag in community-organizing efforts to strengthen rural institutions and prepare grass-root enterprises for financing is a sorry program gap made manifest by the incidence of project failures. Likewise, the low emphasis on savings promotions, which conveniently feed on the general notion that subsidized credit is the solution, becomes a formula for long-term dependency rather than self-reliance. Why save when you can borrow cheaply? ... and from non-lending entities which do not have the machinery to collect anyway? The virtue of self-denial, upon which the framework for savings mobilization stands, is an unnecessary victim.

Obviously, the popular belief that the inaccessibility or the high cost of borrowing is the obstacle to countryside credit and/or microfinance stands no longer on solid grounds. It is not anymore a case of difficulty of access nor even a case of high interest rates. In fact, informal lenders providing credit under their own terms, do flourish and have high patronage among the poor notwithstanding rates which are geometrically higher than that of the formal sector. And if we look back to the mentioned NCC inventory of government credit programs, there are cheap funds readily available for credit to the poor. What bugs the financial system and hinders flow of credit is the risk concomitant to the capability of the borrowers to prudently handle financial affairs, to run projects profitably and manage funds well.

Unless and until the capability factor is given appropriate attention, credit programs run the risk of failure and of making delinquents out of the borrowers. I dare say, a good project will be ruined by an unprepared borrower; whereas a faulty project may still be made to work by a well-trained people!

Poverty, incentives, values

There is simply a need for a deeper appreciation of the workings of poverty, of its underlying culture and incentive structures before we can talk sensibly of such things as anti-poverty programs; of approaches to rural upliftment; of whether credit for the poor is a stand-alone cure-all or a financial tool to trap and control.

Revisiting the existing incentive plans, the prevailing value systems and product delivery-collection mechanisms may be a prudent agenda to dwell and work on, i.e., do existing incentive plans develop the correct values in people? Do they address the real cause of poverty? Are the delivery-collection tools responsive and cost-effective? Is the development thrust getting the attention, the talent it needs and the proper management understanding to carry it out?

It is rather intriguing to note, as one Asian agriculture minister has observed, that:

- Firstly, most discussions on poverty are made by people who have hardly been poor. The inference is that there is a big difference between technical discourses on poverty and the actual experience of poverty;
- Secondly, the intellectual exercises in poverty often end when a research document is accepted, a completion certificate is earned, applause reverberates in symposium on the subject, or when the ribbon-cutting for a pilot program is over; and
- Thirdly, the political approach to poverty whose criterion stands not on purposive economic strategy but simply on the prospect of an election victory. *(To be continued)*

(The author is the senior vice president of Land Bank of the Philippines. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

'Corporate citizenship impacts on brand'

From page B2-1

scope of business in world affairs is greater now than it has ever been," Zobel said.

Zobel also stressed that being a good corporate citizenship means that the profit motive should be forgotten.

Good business sense

"One key element of the new thinking is the belief that there need not be a conflict between profitability and shared values. Being socially responsible can be, and almost always is, a win-win situation. The notion that by doing some good in society, a company will also do well in its business," he said.

Of course there are companies that still would like to emphasize only on the profit motive. Still others take the cynical view that companies are only "responsible" because being otherwise can carry a high price.

"But whatever the motive, in my view, the mandate for business-society cooperation is clear, and the early business acts on it the better," he said.

"Responsible corporate citizenship impacts on brand image and reputation, results in increased sales, engenders greater customer and employee loyalty, and attracts greater investment. Simply put, corporate citizenship makes good business sense," Zobel said.

Pay the price

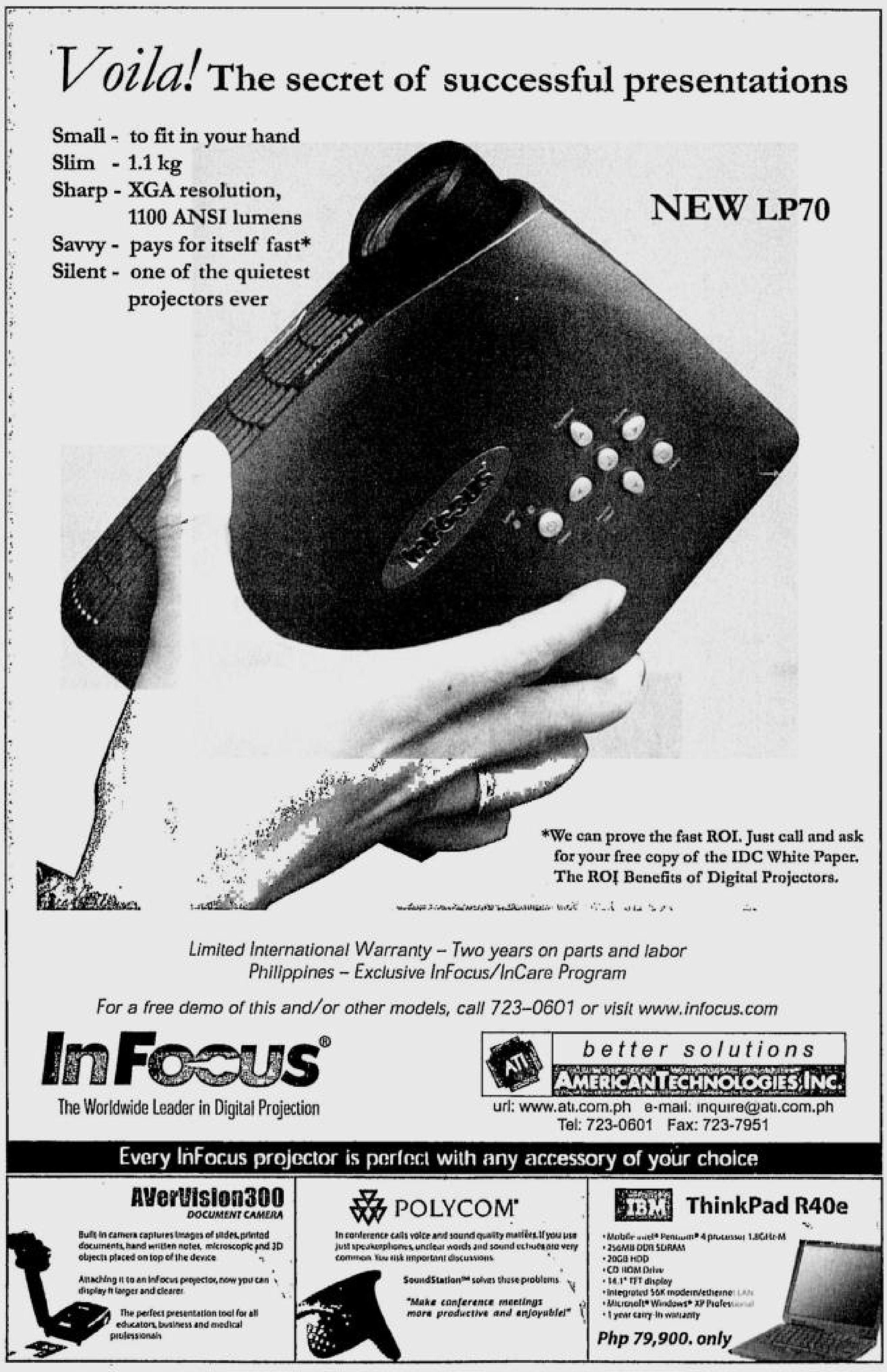
This is also partly because by leaving the rest of society in abject poverty, corporations would have nobody to sell to and profits would eventually dry up.

"Ultimately, we all pay for poverty and unemployment and illiteracy. If a large percentage of society falls into a disadvantaged class, investors will find it hard to source skilled and alert workers; manufacturers will have a limited market for their products; criminality will scare away foreign investments; and internal migrants to limited areas of opportunities will strain basic services," he said.

"Under these conditions, it would be extremely difficult for a country to move forward economically and sustain development. It therefore makes business sense for corporations to complement the efforts of government in contributing to social development," Zobel stressed.

The road forward is undeniably strewn with challenges, and it would be up to the CEOs down to the employees to want to overcome these challenges to help society, and efforts must go beyond convenient lip service.

"The challenge ahead for all of us is clear. There is indeed much that needs to be done, and in fact it can be overwhelming at times. But the private sector also has significant resources at its disposal and there is also therefore much more that we can do. Let us not lose hope. Let us not abandon our society, our people, and our environment to a destiny of decay. We have it within ourselves to make a difference," Zobel said.



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Get your first export order

From page B2-1

gional, national and international trade fairs.

Export marketing

For those who have no experience in export marketing, the trade fair at the municipal level is a good start and "graduating" to the national level, means that the firm is indeed ready to export.

What can you get from by participating in trade fairs?

It is where you get to meet three types of customers :

1) The ultimate consumers, who use the product for personal consumption.

2) The institutional buyers who represent institutions that will use the products for their schools, hospitals, government office or other organizations.

3) Other manufacturers, other service providers and traders who buy products for resale.

Each type of customers must have a different "package deal"—as they say, "different stroke for different folks." For example, a trader with big volume order expects a different pricing from a customer who buys only once for his personal consumption. By getting in touch directly with customers, you can get the "feel" of their preferences.

The volume sales you generate during the trade fair will tell you how good your products are.

At trade fairs you will also meet other businessmen with whom you can network for information and referrals.

You will also meet product specialists, consultants and other agencies that may be able to help your firm improve its performance. The product specialist may be able to give suggestions regarding the design of your products. The consultant may help improve your production processes. Others may show you other services available such as training programs, sources of financing and sources of other technical assistance.

Usually seminars are also conducted at trade fairs, which will give you a chance to keep abreast with recent developments in market trends and technologies as well as other information that could lead to new business opportunities.

Write letters

The age-old practice of writing letters to prospective buyers still works and is much cheaper than traveling abroad to meet the buyers. Include a brochure with pictures and specifications of the products. If these catch their interest, prospective clients will write back and sales negotiation can begin.

The government, through the consular offices of the Department of Foreign Affairs and DTI through the Bureau of Foreign Trade, as well as private industry associations, regularly publish business opportunities to buy and sell products. Check out their newsletters.

Meeting reps of foreign buyers

A number of foreign buyers have local representatives. You can arrange to meet these representatives in order to gauge what they need and verify if your firm can produce what they require. Check out the Foreign Buyers Association of the Philippines (Fobap) and its directory of members.

E-commerce facilities

Progressive businessmen today make use of Information Technology in managing and growing their business. The computer can be an effective marketing tool, especially if you get connected to the Internet and install your own web page with the help of a service provider. Your own Internet page will promote your company and your products to virtually the whole world.

Many industry associations also put up their own web pages. If your firm is a member of one, then your products can be listed and featured. This saves you the cost of putting up and maintaining your own web page. Thousands of buyers around the world now surf the Internet in search of suppliers. Presence in the web will tremendously help in getting orders.

Finalizing and closing the sales

All these promotional activities should lead to the closing of the sales and finalizing of the sales contract. This means that the prospective buyer decides to buy the product/service.

After some negotiation, a contract should be drawn that will specify the technical description and properties of the product, volume requirement, prices and other relevant conditions to the sale of the product.

Just remember "opportunity is where you find it, not where it finds you."

There will be more about how to export in subsequent articles.

(Check out the following UP ISSI training programs for the quarter: Strategic Marketing Course, Total Quality Management, Start Your Own business, and Managing Your Finance by calling up Tel. Nos. 928-7076 to 79 or e-mailing info.issi@up.edu.ph)

RP reloaded: Offering skills, downloading jobs

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

IN the first Matrix film, the hero Neo downloads from the network lots of martial arts skills into his brain.

Today the Philippines is downloading jobs from the Internet, as her professionals offer the world their brains and range of skills.

The United States is starting to feel the pinch from the trend, for professionals there now find it harder to get jobs. Their work is outsourced to the Philippines and similar countries. So argues an article in Fortune magazine (June 23, 2003), entitled "Down and Out in White-Collar America," by Nelson D. Schwartz.

Local work, global clients

"Service firms are now shifting jobs to cheaper locales like India and the Philippines," says Schwartz. "It's not just call centers anymore."

From the American point of view, outsourcing is about hiking profits by saving on costs. For example, a company pays a Detroit college graduate $12 to $ 18 per hour to prepare some accounting reports. It would be cheaper for them to give the job to employees in the Philippines, for $1.50 to $2.

From the Filipino point of view, outsourcing creates jobs and provides hefty pay. The rates look low, but convert them to pesos assuming eight hour work days, and the salaries are competitive for fresh grads.

Range of jobs

It began with customer contact (call) centers. These offices take the calls of Americans or Europeans and walk them through customer service like explaining the product or working with their computers.

Filipino techies in American Online Clark handle the calls and from customers in say, Chicago.

But the outsourcing trend is broader than call centers. Professionals in Makati, Ortigas or Libis, and in Subic, Cebu or Davao, can get on board a whole range of work.

It's like the hi-tech version of the OFW diaspora. Filipinos who leave for abroad get jobs and are paid in dollars. The downside is that they live away from their families and all that they call home.

But with outsourcing, professionals get paid in dollars but they remain in the Philippines. All they have to do is to email their work to their client companies in the States.

They can do accounting and financial analysis for companies abroad. They can run regressions and prepare statements on marketing data. They can draft architecture and engineering plans. They can transcribe doctors' scribbles into full patients' reports. They can prepare company websites.

They can produce customized software.

Even cartoons

And it's no secret that US movie outfits use many Filipino cartoonists.

These computer-aided animators make big bucks by working for the Hollywood market. Check it out: at the end of an animation-heavy movie, wait till the final credits and notice the Filipino names.

Procter and Gamble in the US has saved $1 billion in 1999 by outsourcing their back office work to Costa Rica, the Philippines and Britain. "Your expense report doesn't have to be processed by someone down the hall. They can be in another country as long as you both have access to the same computer network," says Damon Jones, a spokesman for P & G.

According to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Filipinos are most competitive in these hi-tech fields: software development, medical transcription, animation, financial accounting, and construction-related design and engineering.

Employment expansion in Libis

"One only has to go to Eastwood City in Libis to see the most palpable example of these vital sectors," says DTI Secretary Mar Roxas. "Over the last six months or so, nearly 6,000 jobs have been generated in IT-enabled services."

The special niche of the Philippines is indeed IT-enabled services.

According to Mckinsey and Co., the global market for this segment will hit $ 142.2 billion by 2008.

"At first the work was limited to call centers," says Fortune's Schwartz.

"But in the past two or three years, companies have turned to India and the Philippines for much more sophisticated tasks: financial analysis, software design, tax preparation, even the creation of (corporate) Power Point presentations."

It's a big world after all

The market for these services is vast, according to DTI:

Human resource services	$44 billion
Customer interaction	$33 billion
Data search,integration and management and mining	$18 billion
Remote education	$15 billion
Finance and accounting services	$15 billion
Engineering and design	$5 billion
Network consulting and management	$5 billion
Website services	$3 billion
Animation	$2 billion
Medical transcription	$1.2 billion
Market research	$1 billion

A word of caution through: there is some political backlash in the United States.

Eager to protect jobs, some states like New Jersey are considering laws that ban the outsourcing of government contracts.

Nevertheless, more Filipino professionals should look for projects in the outsourcing matrix. It may lead their careers into an exhilarating red pill experience.

Comments to <darroyo@philonline.com >

Electronics firm launches $600-M youth program

SAMSUNG Electronics has launched of its "Samsung DigitAll Hope" in Australia, Singapore, India, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines.

The regional social program will donate $600,000 to organizations supporting the use of technology to improve the lives of youth and helping to bridge the digital divide.

The theme for 2003 is "Live Your Dream," which will focus on fulfilling the dreams of young people.

"Ensuring that all young people have equal access to information technology is an increasingly important issue for the future development of the Asia-Pacific region. I understand that Samsung is one of the first companies to establish such a large-scale, unified regional social program in Asia-Pacific focusing on this issue," said Dr. Kim Hak-Su, executive secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), who is acting in his personal capacity as chairperson of the regional judging committee for Samsung DigitAll Hope 2003.

"What makes DigitAll Hope 2003 monumental is the size of the grant money; its regional focus on an area where using information technology to fill a development gap will remain a key issue; and the theme of youth, whose lives will be improved through the use of information technology," Kim added.

The youth-themed program is part of Samsung's commitment to give back to the countries in which it operates. Youth are the focus because those aged 15-24 represent a large segment of the overall population in the region at almost 20 percent. "This region has given the company such great success and the youth here, with so many ambitions, dreams and aspirations, should be given the chance to achieve greatness," said Kwang-Soo Kim, president and CEO of Samsung Asia. "When we looked at what was being done in our region, on a social level by large Corporations, we realized that much more was needed. I anticipate Samsung DigitAll Hope will promote the use of information technology for youth and perhaps influence other companies to get involved in social programs as well," added Kim.

As part of the grant selection process, Samsung has sought consultation from national youth agencies throughout the region and UNESCAP to identify organizations matching Samsung's 2003 program objectives.

Additionally, Samsung has appointed an independent judging committee to evaluate grant applications, which will be mailed out to organizations in the near future. Charities, non-government organizations, educational institutions and development institutes will be considered for monetary and product awards. On-going and newly founded youth projects will be considered for grants. Grant recipients will be announced by Samsung in early August 2003.

The Samsung DigitAll Hope 2003 regional judging committee will be headed Dr. Kim Hak-Su.

In the Philippines, Department of Science and Technology Secretary Estrella Alabastro was appointed to the judging committee.

"It is a great honor to be a part of this program wherein we can help local organizations that work to build the lives of youth through the use information technology," Alabastro said. Other regional judging committee members include:

Kwang-Soo Kim, regional president and CEO of Samsung Asia, Regional; Dr. Pairash Thajchayapong, president of National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), Thailand; John Rimmer, chief executive officer of National Office for Information Economy (NOIE), Australia; Dr. Verghese Kurien, chair of AMUL, India; Dr. Nguyen Ngoc Giao, chair of Alliance of Association of Technique and Science for Hochiminh city, Vietnam; Dr. Leo Wee Hin Tan, Dr. Leo Wee Hin Tan, director of the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. is a global leader in semiconductor, telecommunication, and digital convergence technology. Samsung Electronics employs approximately 64,000 people in 89 offices in 47 countries. The company is the world's largest producer of memory chips, TFT-LCDs, CDMA mobile phones, monitors and VCRs. Samsung Electronics consists of four main business units: Digital Media Network, Device Solution Network, Telecommunication Network and Digital Appliance Network Businesses.

Firms see darker side of call center boom

BANGALORE—Rajit Gangadharan thought his dream had come true when a call center offered him an attractive job soon after he finished a bachelor's degree in commerce.

With shopping coupons, free passes to entertainment shows, a fun office environment and a decent salary, his work involved dealing with customers located thousands of miles away.

But the dream soured for the 24-year-old when he began to see the flip side of his cool job: Long night shifts, irregular eating habits and few opportunities to meet his old friends.

"Social life is nil in such a job, as you spend 10 to 12 hours at the office at nights and then spend the rest of the day sleeping while others around you are active," said Gangadharan, who quit after two years to go back to business school.

India's call centers provide cheap English-speaking workers and high-speed telecoms to provide customer service helplines for companies around the world. They're a boon for India's army of job-hunting youth, but there is a murkier side to the industry.

Retaining stressed and bored workers is one challenge for their managers. Poaching by mushrooming rivals is another.

"The aspiration levels of these youngsters is very, very high and this is a big challenge to meet," said Aashu Calapa, human resources chief at back-office services firm ICICI OneSource.

While Calapa frets about the issue inside his glass-walled office, employees dressed in T-shirts and jeans pass by brightly painted rooms festooned with balloons to welcome new recruits.

Call centers and remote services such as accounting and payroll processing mainly serve US-based clients nearly halfway around the world. The sector is forecast to grow a stunning 54 per cent in the year to March 2004 from $2.3 billion in 2002/03.

The sector aims to raise exports to $25 billion by 2008 and employ one million people. More than 100,000 jobs have sprung up in the past two years, doubling the total workforce to 170,000.

"Due to the exuberance of the youth, many people are looking at instant gratification in this industry," said Arun Mansukhani, vice-president of human resources at Zenta, one of the smaller players in the 400 company-strong sector.

"Career growth is expected to be fast and youngsters don't have

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New GM at Holiday Inn Galleria Manila

VINCENT

Frederick D. Go, executive vice president for Robinsons Land Corp., recently announced the appointment of William Leslie Vincent as the new General Manager for Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, formerly Manila Galleria Suites.

Vincent is a New Zealander who brings with him over 27 years of international hotel experience to the Holiday Inn Galleria Manila.

Prior to his assignment in Manila, Vincent has held top management posts in premier city center, resort, business and vacation hotels as well as travelodges in Australia, New Zealand and Asia.

As the new GM, Vincent is expected to ensure that the Manila property meets the international Holiday Inn brand standards, leveraging this with the Philippines' reputation for genuine hospitality.

Cebu Pacific new GM

MOJICA

Danilo Mojica recently joined the Gokongwei-owned airline Cebu Pacific Air as its new General Manager.

The 42-year-old Mojica began his marketing career at Procter and Gamble then moved on to San Miguel as VP for Specialty Beverage Sales. Prior to joining CEB, Mojica served as president director of the Indonesian subisidary of multinational company Reckitt Benckiser.

In addition, seasoned airline engineer Fel Custodio took over the helm of CEB's Maintenance and Engineering department as its head.

Custodio's airline experience spans two and a half decades, honing knowledge and skills in various aircraft types—from BAC 1-11 to Boeing 747. Custodio started out as an assistant engineer, and worked his way up to senior engineer, aircraft specialist and finally, director for maintenance and engineering.

ABS-CBN appoints new VP

BERBA

ABS-CBN Broadcasting recently announced the appointment of Philip Lamberto Berba as VP for the human resources division. As VP-HRD, Berba will be in charge of all HR departments including rewards and policy management, labor and employee relations, recruitment, payroll, benefits, training and international job market.

Previously, Berba was a partner-consultant in HR Solutions International, a company that provided services such as customizing or conducting programs on HR principles, policies and guidelines for its clients that included companies like ABS-CBN, Alcatel Philippines, GLobe Telecom and AIM.

Firms see darker . . .

From page B2-3

any qualms about leaving one company and joining another." Global giants such as Dell Computer Corp., HSBC bank and AOL-Time Warner are rapidly expanding back office work in India, throwing up new job opportunities for a country that churns out more than 1.5 million university graduates every year.

Entry-level graduates in India are paid about 10,000 rupees ($215) a month, a tenth of what their US counterparts get.

The industry trains youths to adopt American accents and corporate culture to put customers at ease.

But managing body clocks and the monotony spell trouble.

"Nowadays, I have to think 10 times before having a chilled beer, as I can't take the risk of having a bad throat and upset my work schedule," says Kishore Kumar, 26, who has been taking customer calls in the night for the past 18 months.

Abraham Karimpanal, a senior official at corporate researcher NFO MBL India, said staff were happy at work, but did not consider call centers as a long-term career option.

In a recent survey, NFO found that managing the expectations of a young workforce was the main challenge facing companies.

"People are invariably joining with the hope that six months down the line they have moved up the ladder and are no longer doing what they are doing," said Karimpanal. *Reuters*

Who says you can't interview applicants at 10 in the evening?

VIDEOCONFERENCING has become a way of life in countries like Singapore, Hong Kong and the US.

PROJECTED to be a way of life in a globalizing world, videoconferencing presents distinct advantages to many companies.

Late evening is not usually a good time for a job interview. But when the interviewer looking for new hires is several time zones away, quite a number of mid- and high-level applicants have realized that 10 p.m. Philippine time is as good as any to face a prospective boss.

Interviews involving parties on two continents have become commonplace events at the Oakwood Premier Ayala Center, which until very recently was the only luxury establishment in Makati to offer videoconference facilities.

Through ISDN lines that can transmit data with speeds of up to 512 kbps, Oakwood offers foreign firms interested in Filipino talents the convenience of talking to a prospective hire miles away almost as though he or she were in the same room.

Time-saving

Close to but not exactly like a face-to-face encounter, a videoconference has its limitations, admits Lani Generoso, assistant business center manager at Oakwood Premier.

For the interviewee, the lights in the room are brighter than usual for the sake of picture quality and he or she faces a larger-than-life executive on a 120-inch wall-mounted screen. For the person at the other end of the connection, it is not possible to see a document or a computer presentation at the same time as the face of the speaker an ocean away. But these limitations are worth the savings and opportunities generated by videoconferencing, she points out.

Aside from headhunting, videoconferencing lends itself to board and management committee meetings. Can you imagine the time, effort and resources needed to put together on a quarterly basis in one room 16 to 20 company officials split into two, even three, Asian locations, Generoso points out. Aside from air fare and hotel accommodations, throw in travel and adjustment time for the executive.

Multinational consumer companies, pharmaceuticals as well as telecommunication companies are among the regulars at the fully-equipped Oakwood Business Center that have wizened up to videoconferencing. "These are companies that usually operate within the region and need to periodically gather executives from different locations for reviews and training," according to Generoso.

Call centers

She relates that multinational call centers were among the first to resort to videoconferencing when conducting job interviews, particularly when scouting around for a number of mid-level managers. She discloses that these firms don't even bother to have a representative at Oakwood when the interviews take place. She is merely given a list of applicants to organize and lead to the camera one at a time at 30-45 minute intervals.

ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) lines which allows for simultaneous transmission of voice, data and video information have primarily made this technological innovation possible.

At the 306-room Oakwood which enjoys a good location in the middle of Ayala Center in Makati, a state-of-the-art videoconferencing system that includes front and rear high-resolution cameras, special lighting technology that allows best image and color quality as well as a microphone conference system have all made this a viable mode of gathering company officials and partners.

It helps too that the establishment offering premier serviced residences in addition to the full comforts of a hotel operates 24 hours a day and can offer meals and refreshments to videoconference participants at almost any hour.

The secret to a good videoconference, according to Generoso who heads a seasoned technical support team, is the number of ISDN lines used for the meeting.

Oakwood, which also has serviced offices for lease, has four. The more lines used, the faster the transmission of data, and the more lifelike the image on the other end of the screen becomes. When only two lines are used and data is transmitted at a speed of only 128 kbps, one will find himself interacting with (and conversely looking like) a Charlie Chaplinesque look-alike exhibiting jerky movements. In addition, the lip movements of the other person on the screen will not be synchronized with his voice transmission. Given more than two ISDN lines, it also becomes possible to have more than two locations participate in the same meeting. In such cases, the screen can be split into three or four images, says Generoso who will also bother to look for a counterpart videoconference facility in other cities of the world for requesting Oakwood clients.

Generoso observes that particularly in Hongkong, Singapore and the US, videoconferencing is a way of life. In fact, it is a standard service offered by the larger business center chains. She relates that as much as 60 per cent of all videoconferences conducted at Oakwood is initiated by parties abroad. In such cases, Oakwood merely charges a room rate and no transmission cost since this is borne by the initiating party.

Many of these are companies with operations around the globe, a situation that justifies the cost of setting up expensive in-house videoconferencing equipment. A projector bulb alone, she discloses, can cost as much as P67,000.

A figment of one's corporate imagination just three years ago, videoconferencing is beginning to attract more proponents, particularly after the aftermath of SARS in Asia. More than a passing fad, the technology that allows meetings in multiple locations merits close study, agree other business conference managers in other Oakwood business centers in Bangkok and Tokyo. In both locations, videoconference traffic is high.

Generoso advises local executive to learn videoconference techniques because it will be very much part of our globalizing world largely because of the savings and conveniences it presents. She advises, for instance, that one must be very conscious of his or her posture and manner of speaking in a televised meeting. And yes, such coaching is part of the suite of services she offers at Oakwood Premier Ayala Center.

Vacation yields a venture that mixes old and new technology

By Sharon Wendy A. Robas

WHO would have thought that a vacation abroad would lead to a business opportunity? For couple Randy and Elisa Yu, their trip to Hong Kong late last year gave birth to Digi-Stamps Enterprises in the Philippines.

It was in a shopping center in a Hong Kong hotel that the couple took notice of Neostamp, a personalized digital stamp outlet.

They were amazed to see the new product but initially did not think of it as something they would venture into.

The couple bought two stamps, one with their photos taken at the stall and the other with their son's scanned photo.

Upon returning to the Philippines, just in time for the Christmas holidays, Elisa says they put the stamps on Christmas cards they sent to friends. "They liked it and then they started asking where we got them," Elisa relates.

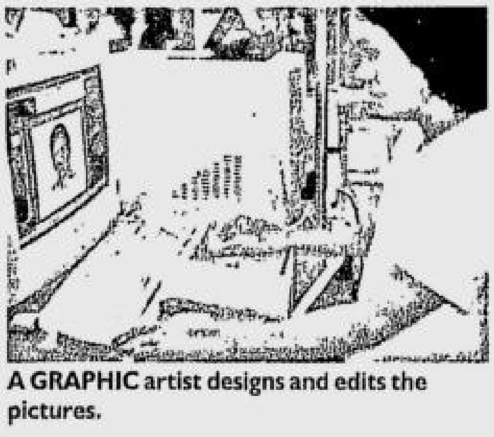
Soon, Randy sent an e-mail to the Hong Kong company handling the business and inquired about it.

New technology

Randy shares this new technology began in Japan in 1999. It carries a different name in different countries but is known in Japan as Dejihan, meaning digital stamps.

He shares that there were two of them applying for the rights to open in the Philippines.

"We went to Hong Kong this January to see the technology and the process. Afterwards, we were given a few weeks to decide if we are going to get the exclusive rights or not," Randy states.



A GRAPHIC artist designs and edits the pictures.

Luckily, Randy, with the approval from Japan, got the exclusive rights from Hong Kong and before long he, his brother and sister were already learning the process in Hong Kong, which took only one day.

Randy did not divulge how much the business costs them but only says "less than a million."

After learning the basics in Hong Kong, training of the staff of Digi-Stamps followed.

In April this year, Digi-Stamps opened its first stall in SM City North Edsa. Randy says the timing was right because of the summer season and many were eager to try the new product.

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RONALD and Randy Yu in one of their Digi-Stamps outlets.

One-hour process

The process takes less than an hour to finish. "If there were no pending orders, a stamp can be made in 10 to 30 minutes, depending on the picture quality or layout difficulty. If we are doing an old, dirty picture, it will take the full 30 minutes. For good photos or digital pictures, lesser time is needed," Randy explains.

The procedure starts with the scanning of photos or having it taken right at the stall for free, then editing and designing the photo in the computer after the client has chosen the size and text; the final layout of the photo will then be printed in acetate form. The acetate format will be placed in the flash unit where it is burned to the rubber; lastly, the ink color of choice will then be applied in the rubber.

All materials are bought in Hong Kong including the ink that they used.

There are 10 sizes to choose from, like key chain stamps for instance, and a selection of designs to suit the customers' tastes. There's also the "pudding" stamp which Randy shares, probably got the name because it's "shaped like a Chinese cookie or pastry," if not for "Hong Kong's knack of making cute names for their products."

Chinese characters

Cartoon and Chinese characters as well as signature chops are also available. There are also various border styles and ink colors to choose from.

The popularity of the Taiwanese boy band F4 has also gotten the stamp craze as some customers prefer their stamps to carry their photos together with all or any of the group's members.

Prices range from P150 to P680 depending on the size of the stamps. Name card stamps are also available for over a thousand.

Randy, 32, says Digi-Stamps clicks because the photo's resolution is 2400 dpi, making the pictures clear when transferred to rubber stamps. He also adds that the rubber used in the stamp can last for more than five years.

Randy says the stamp is best on any paper surfaces, CDs, metal and plastic. "The regular ink we use can be used on anything you want to stamp on; but we recommend you use another ink if you want something more permanent," he adds. An ink refill cost P120 per bottle.

Two people make up the staff in every Digi-Stamps outlet: a graphic artist and a sales/marketing person. But Randy stresses that the two are taught to do both jobs.

Randy handles most of the technical and marketing side of the business while his brother Ronald is in charge of the mall operations.

Advantage

Ronald says having a business inside a mall is an advantage especially if the product is new in the market. "People from all walks of life are here in the mall. So, for example, (in Digi-Stamps) we can make your stamps while you do your shopping," says Ronald.

AN ACETATE is being placed inside the flash unit.

Having the right location also proves to be an edge. "Even if the product is good but the location is bad then you'll suffer," Ronald relates.

Today, Digi-Stamps has four outlets, mostly located in major malls in Metro Manila, and three dealers. At least two more is expected to open this year.

Ronald shares their clients like the product because of its personalized appeal, citing one company who used the stamps on writing materials to be used for company seminars or even wedding functions where the couple's photos are stamped on tissues.

Being in a family who have been to "mall" business since the '70s, Randy is optimistic about Digi-Stamps. "The business is doing OK … especially when we opened just in time for the opening of classes but we hope to pick up after the typhoon season."

"When we started this business we really took a risk *kasi wala pa dito*," says Elisa who's pregnant with her and Randy's second child.

The couple also states the importance of liking what you do in keeping a business. "If it interests you, even if it's hard, it becomes easier because you like it," Elisa says. Randy, a La Salle mechanical engineering graduate, admits that he always has this inclination to new technologies.

For would be entrepreneurs Randy has this to say: "Do not be too profit-oriented but service-oriented. Always think of what your customers will like."

Surely, nothing beats when, as Elisa puts it, "you get to see the clients *na masaya*."

Summer sing-alongs bring Sweden to standstill

STOCKHOLM—Every summer Tuesday come rain or shine, teenagers and grandmothers start queuing at 6 a.m. in Stockholm ready to wait 14 hours for the best seats at Sweden's favorite music spectacle.

Fittingly from the land that gave the world ABBA, and is known for its love of equality and community spirit, Swedes are crazy about singing together and "Sing-along at Skansen" is the country's most popular television show.

More than two million people, or one in four Swedes, tune in every week to join in the traditional melodies of love, sailing and gentle summer days from their sofa, helped out by host Lasse Berghagen and karaoke-type texting of lyrics.

But the real stars are the live audience of 30,000, many of whom have camped out for hours with coffee, sandwiches, blankets and umbrellas to get a ringside seat in the hilltop arena at the Skansen open air museum on an island in central Stockholm.

"Sweden is a choir nation. We love to sing in choirs," said Berghagen, a big star in Sweden whose face plasters the tabloids with gripping revelations such as that he dyes his hair brown.

"We have schnapps songs when we drink vodka and we sing in church choirs even if we don't go to church," the tall, friendly 58-year-old told Reuters at a recent edition of Sing-along, which he has hosted on national television for 10 years.

Berghagen has attracted a younger audience with star guests like Latin pop idol Ricky Martin as well as jazz and rock.

But his ulterior motive is to rekindle interest in Swedish traditional songs, long out of fashion. He calls them "the nation's treasure. You hear the Swedish song tradition less and less on the radio because young radio presenters play the music of their time. So this music is disappearing, which is sad." Many Swedes mourned last year when Berghagen announced that this year would be his last Sing-along season—including many in the audience at Skansen who were waving banners reading "We love Lasse" and "No summer without Lasse". But the show next Tuesday (July 15) will be Berghagen's last on the stage decorated with Swedish icons such as giant red Dala horses and birch trees, before a younger successor takes over.

Annastina Johansson, 84, preferred the "more peaceful" old-time Sing-along of when she first came to Skansen 30 years ago, but she still finds it worth queuing up from 6 a.m. "The atmosphere is wonderful. We are so happy when Lasse comes. He's a fine person, it's such a pity he is leaving."

Ten minutes after the main gate opens at 8:30 a.m., 150 people have sprawled blankets and raincoats across the benches.

Jennie Johansson, 27, rushes in with picnic basket, blanket and umbrella to reserve a seat for her grandmother who is flying down from northern Sweden especially.

"She turned 80 a week ago and we bought her tickets as a present," said Johansson, whose granny is a big fan of the television show. "I don't think she's missed it once."

Reuters

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

PMA gears up for National Marketing Month

ON THE heels of last year's declaration by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo officially making July the National Marketing Month, the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) is currently preparing a full slate of activities that will spur interest in the nationwide relevance of marketing.

Speaking before businessmen and marketing professionals during the PMA National Marketing Conference last year, the President called on the movers and shakers of the business, consumer and retail communities to come together and work with the government toward creating a better business environment in the country and freeing the Filipino people from the bondage of poverty.

"In a free enterprise, marketing is crucial to increasing jobs for the people and making our country competitive. As 'cheerleaders' of business, marketers can be our partners in building a bullish investment sector. We need marketing to be able to sell our goods, services and our country's natural wonders to the global market. To be competitive and attractive to investors, we must be in the global market's ballgame," Ms Macapagal pointed out.

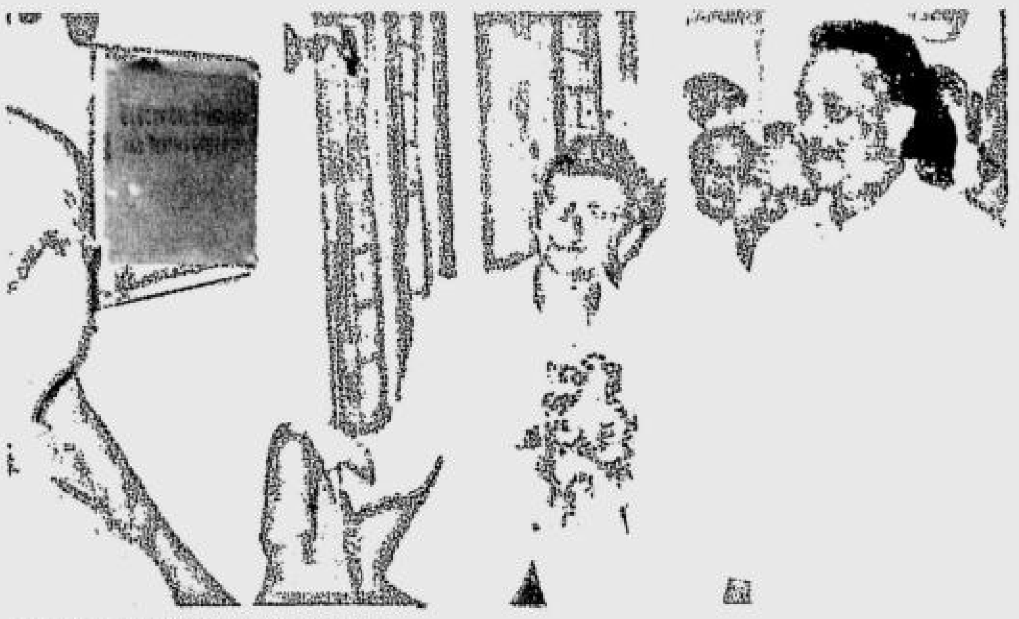
As part of this month-long event, the PMA mounts the 3rd Stratmark (Strategic Marketing) Lecture Series on July 18 guided by the theme "Emerging Challenges: New Markets, New Rules, New Strategies." Designed to impart new insights and success strategies to participants, it will involve the country's prominent figures in business, marketing and governance as speakers.

The celebration also involves a campus tour to a number of colleges and universities on current marketing issues and a week-long trade exhibit "A Marketer's Marketplace," featuring the best of Agora awardees at the Glorietta Activity Center from July 21 to 26.

For more information, call the PMA secretariat at 892-3144, 813-0466, 893-7127, 893-6459, or fax 892-3261 or e-mail pma@philonline.com.

GLOBE TELECOM
Dusit Hotel Nikko

DUSIT HOTEL PARTNERS WITH GLOBE
Dusit Hotel Nikko, Manila is now one of the few local hotels to introduce broadband to room and wireless local area network backed by the technology of Globe Telecom through its wireline data arm Globe Quest. Its luxurious and spacious function rooms are now equipped with a broadband Internet connectivity. The system supports bandwidth-hungry applications such as videostreaming, large-file downloads, FTPs, and videoconferencing. Shown during the contract signing are, from left, Butch de los Reyes, head of Globe Quest corporate sales, Gil B. Genio, head, Globe wireline business group, Chiyuki Fujimoto, Dusit Hotel Nikko's general manager, and Pablo Tansiking, Dusit Hotel Nikko's assistant general manager.



DOST CHIEF IN CEBU CITY
Department of Science and Technology Secretary Estrella Alabastro was the guest of honor during the inauguration of the Electrical Standards and Testing Laboratory of the Center for Industrial Technology and Enterprise (CITE) based in San Jose, Cebu City. A joint project of DOST, Consuelo Foundation and CITE, the precision and test instruments calibration laboratory will cater to the needs of manufacturing and services industries in Visayas and Mindanao. Shown is the DOST chief during the unveiling of the marker of the lab assisted by (from left) Greg Park of Consuelo Foundation, Ruben Laraya, CITE executive director, and Col. Alex T. Escano, CITE chair and Meralco Foundation president.

RP karatekas to Greece

AAK Team Philippines left Sunday, July 13 for Evia, Greece, to participate in the 12th KOI Karate World Cup and Training Camp from July 14 to 20. The delegation is headed by former SEA Games gold medallists Richard Lim and Juan Carlo "Chino" Veguillas, who both left earlier for the preliminary preparations and briefings.

In last year's 11th World Cup held in Dresden, Germany, AAK Team Philippines finished 4th from among over 40 countries. The 10-member delegation from the Association for the Advancement of Karatedo (AAK) won two golds, three silvers and five bronze medals.

The 23 athletes who left were Raoul Emmanuel Xavier Resurreccion, Joel Eddie Mallillin, Vincent Filologo Pante, Roberto Miguel Velasquez, Norman Montalvo, Jert Stephen Pe Yao, Joseph Adrian Capuno, Muhammad Abdul-Rahim Ampatuan, Jeremiah Tan, David John Paulo Israel, Carlo Miguel Berba, Gerard Tolentino, Gerardo Rodrigo Anonas, Karl Martin Salcedo, Christian Gerard Alcones, Gabriel Alexis de la Cruz, Christopher David Feliciano, Harvey Christopher Sy, Manuel Bayona, Raissa Mikaela Velasquez, Maria Theresa de Guzman, Rebecca Cyril Torres, Diana Camacho, and Stephanie Carol Lim.

They are accompanied by Filologo Pante, Ricardo Jose Torres, Rachel Torres, Rosabelle Tan, Myla Israel, and Jeany de la Cruz who are members of the AAK Parents and Supporters Association.

The KOI Training Camp, instructors' seminars and World Cup are annual international events organized by World Karate Federation (WKF) chair of both WKF Sports Commission and WKF Referee Council 8th Dan Tommy Morris. The training camp and instructors seminars are conducted in conjunction with the World Cup to update athletes on the latest competition skills and to accredit international karate instructors. The events are hosted respectively by various countries from throughout the world. World champions, representing their clubs, participate in these events.

The teaching staff of the International Training Camp and the Karate Instructors Course are both headed by sensei Morris. The members of the teaching staff are Jaap Smaal of Netherlands for Shotokan, Steve Morris of Scotland for Shitoryu, Lo Beng Hoi of Malaysia for Wado-ryu and Richard Lim of the Philippines for Goju-ryu. Kumite trainings are handled by Richard Callaghan of Australia and Kamil Musin of Russia. They are to be assisted by other KOI-accredited international instructors.

The members of the delegation are supported by various government and private entities and also by the Philippine Sports Commission.

Dominado rules 3rd round of rallycross series

A REVERSAL of fortunes early in the race enabled Kenneth Dominado to emerge as the overall champion in the recently concluded 3rd leg of the Ultron Rallycross Series at the CCP Complex.

Driving a rally-prepared Toyota Corolla, Dominado executed the twist and turns of the track with skill and precision to register an impressive time of 1;49.56 seconds, edging out rallycross veterans Jun Diaz who placed 2nd overall and 10-time national rally champion Vip Isada of Team Blaze, rounding off the top three finishers.

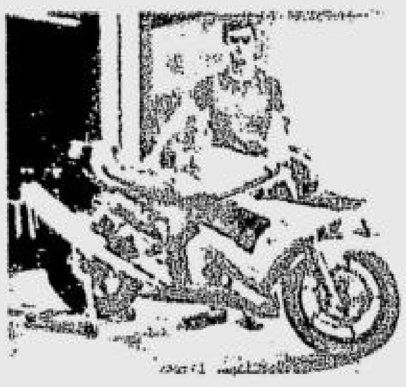
"This time, Lady Luck was on my side," beams Dominado, who also dominated the RP 13 and NRC 19 Classes.

Other big winners were Alfred Racho, who clinched the Novice Class, Ken Diaz of Team Ultron winning the Clubman Class and Samantha Santiago taking home the trophy for the Ladies Category.

In the Arrive and Drive category, Danny Rei Daquigan's time of 1:17.67 seconds pushed him to the top spot, with newsman Dodjie Aguila and Tito Cruz sharing podium finishes.

The 2003 Ultron Rallycross Championship is organized by the AAA and is sponsored by Ultron, Blaze and Diesel Max. Co-sponsors of the event are Gadgets Magazine, Motorista.com.ph, Auto Extreme, Nodalo's, ATI Racing and Roadwise Motoring School. The Automobile Association of the Philippines sanctions the event.

Bichara's double win at BRC



AFTER a six-year break from racing, 38-year-old Miguel Bichara of Team Club 200/Bridgestone returned and dominated rounds 3 and 4 of the Shell Advance Superbike Series (Novice Division) May 25 at the Batangas Racing Circuit (BRC). Bichara clocked in at 1:42.44 and held the 2nd quickest time of the day.

Bichara rode a 2003 Yamaha R6 (600cc) motorcycle and led the first eight laps of the 10-lap race of round 3 until rain caused Bichara to slide and fall off his bike. He recovered and still finished first, ahead of defending champion Nikki Romero and German national Ralf Wiltschek, both on 600cc motorbikes.

As the weather improved later, Bichara again dominated round 4.

Rounds 5 and 6 were held on June 22, also at the BRC. Bichara was sponsored by Bridgestone Tires, C! Magazine, Eugene Reyes K9 Training School, Martin's Car Accessories and Novus WindShield Repair. The race was sanctioned by Namssa.

Clips

Dental exam topnotcher

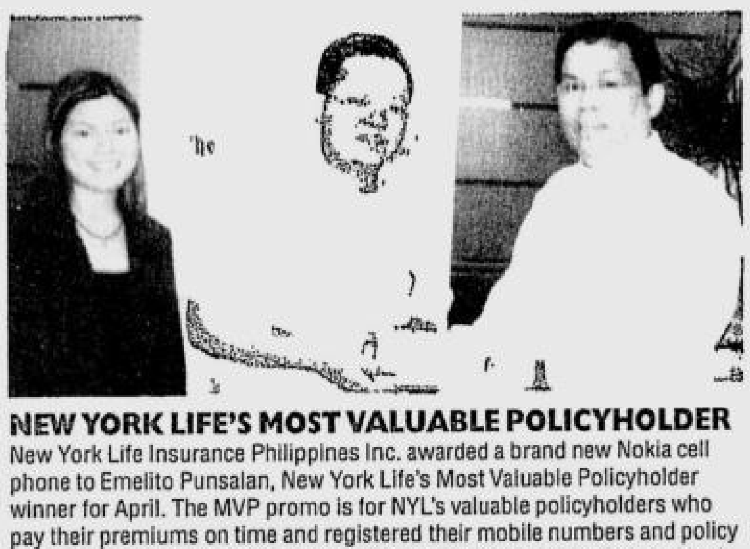
THE TOPNOTCHER of the Dental Licensure Examinations is Larissa Corinne Rama Esposo-a product of Paref Woodrose School and the University of the Philippines where she finished Dentistry. Larissa, 24, is the daughter of Gerry and Liza Esposo and the granddaughter of Lady and Nap Rama, publisher of the Manila Bulletin.

More customers, more profits

IF YOU improve your customer service, you will attract more customers, and more customers mean more profit. Learn the latest tips and techniques of customer relationship management from this special seminar on Monday, July 14, 5 to 9 p.m. at Traders Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City (near Vito Cruz). The seminar will have as its resource lecturer Ricky de Vera, one of the Philippines' marketing and management gurus. This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles Inc., a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development. Call Mercy at 638-7719/20 for more information.

Arts, cultural management at NCCA

THE NATIONAL Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), through its educational arm the Institute for Culture and Arts Management (Icam), offers non-degree courses on culture and arts management. Ongoing until November, Icam offers specialized courses such as Building an Audience for the Arts from July 14 to 18, Management of Tangible Cultural Heritage (Aug. 25 to 29), Marketing II: Creating Loyal Customers (Sept. 15 to 19), Cultural Festival Management (Oct. 27 to 31), Management of Intangible Cultural Heritage and (Nov. 24 to 28). All courses will be conducted from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the 3 floor of the NCCA Building, 633 Gen. Luna Street, Intramuros, Manila. For more inquiries, call Prunes Santos or Michael Dizon at 527-2192 local 302/303, or e-mail info@ncca.gov.ph or visit the NCCA website at www.ncca.gov.ph.



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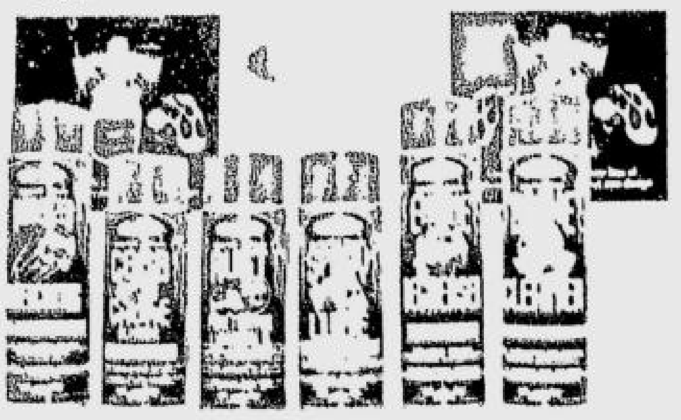
New York Life Insurance Philippines Inc. awarded a brand new Nokia cell phone to Emelito Punsalan, New York Life's Most Valuable Policyholder winner for April. The MVP promo is for NYL's valuable policyholders who pay their premiums on time and registered their mobile numbers and policy numbers through NYL's PowerTalk. This promo started July 2002 and ends August. Awarding Punsalan is Kenn Ramirez, SVP for agency distribution and Karen Mendoza, senior manager for marketing.

Casino
s. Face
Nestle
alon

APSOP AWARDS MISS PHOTOGENIC
Nicolas Rivera, owner of Kameratechnik Photography and director of the Association of Photo Studio Owners of the Philippines (Apsop) announced Nikka Lalata as Miss Photogenic at the recently concluded NCR finals of Miss Face & Body Beautiful held at Casino Filipino in Tagaytay. Rivera also presented the 16x20 portrait of Lalata as proof of her winning moment. Rivera is also at the helm on the Search for Miss Photography Girl 2003 sponsored by Apsop in cooperation with Harrison Plaza and Lights & Camera, the first photography magazine in the country.

Product FILES



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It has three maintenance categories: the fuel additives (gas and diesel engines), the maintenance additives for all types of gas and diesel engines, and the maintenance aerosol for cleaning, lubrication and degreasing.

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Exec sworn into insurance hall of fame

TSE

EDMUND Tse, senior vice chair and co-chief operating officer, American International Group Inc. (AIG) as well as chair and chief executive officer of American International Assurance Co. Ltd. (AIA), has been elected to the Insurance Hall of Fame, the most prestigious award in the insurance industry.

He will be formally inducted into the Insurance Hall of Fame on Tuesday, July 15 at the annual seminar of the International Insurance Society, the sponsor of the Insurance Hall of Fame.

Created in 1957, the Insurance Hall of Fame honors individuals who have influenced the ability of insurance organizations to service society effectively in one or more countries. Inductees have shown creative thinking and imaginative actions in the insurance field. Edmund Tse will be the first Chinese to be given this prestigious award.

Tse is based in Hong Kong, where he joined AIG in 1961. Early in his career with the company, he was posted to Nan Shan Life Insurance Co. Ltd., an affiliate of AIG in Taiwan, where he eventually became president and managing director in 1975 and chairman in 1990. When he assumed his position with Nan Shan it was a small local insurance company in tenuous condition. Over the years he built the company with a new agency force and new product development. Today the company is the second largest life insurance company in Taiwan.

As AIG's senior vice chair and co-chief operating officer, Tse's responsibilities include overseeing the company's global life insurance operations. And, as chair and CEO of AIA, he spearheads the group's life insurance business in Asia. Currently, AIG, through its member companies, AIA and Philam, has the No. 1 ranking in market share in Southeast Asia. The group has an impressive force of 180,000 agents and 21 million life policies in force in 13 countries and jurisdictions in Asia.

Under the leadership of Tse, AIG has also expanded into a broad range of financial services in the Southeast Asian region. AIG entered the Hong Kong credit card market in 1999, expanding under Tse's direction into the Philippines, Taiwan and Thailand.

Tse played a key role in opening China's insurance business. He is one of the pioneers in exploring business potential in China. He introduced the agency concept and system in China when AIG offered insurance services to local populations. Today, AIG's life insurance operations are available in Beijing, Dongguan, Foshan, Guangzhou, Jiangmen, Shanghai, Shenzhen and Suzhou.

Tse has been instrumental in promoting the insurance industry in Hong Kong and throughout Asia.

Of junk mail, tie lengths . . .

From page B2-8

fect of thanking them for including you in their mailing list however you would appreciate that they refrain from sending you chain e-mails.

Q. I am in the publicity business. Do I have to send thank you notes for gifts received as PR promotional materials from cosmetic companies and other companies that regularly send me items to try and to write about?

A. No you do not. However, a phone call would be good especially if you know the person who sent the items to you. This is part of relationship building with your clients. But, it is not necessary.

Q. How long should a man's tie be? Many of my colleagues walk around the office with various lengths of ties and I was wondering if there is a correct length?

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Computer school wins Singapore award

INFORMATICS Group, the leader in quality lifelong learning services, won the Singapore Quality Class (SQC) for Private Education Organizations Award, administered by SPRING Singapore.

The SQC Award recognizes organizations for their commitment, dynamism and progressiveness in achieving business excellence based on the seven broad criteria of leadership, planning, information, people, processes, customers and results.

The SQC for Private Education Organizations (PEO) award category further extends this benchmark of excellence to the private education and learning services market in Singapore. This SQC (PEO) award is a scheme to recognize local PEOs that have attained a commendable level of performance in their journey to business excellence.

"The SQC for PEO award sets a higher benchmark for private education providers, and is in line with the national strategy of making Singapore a regional hub for providing world-class education services," said Lawrence Wee, Senior Vice President for Informatics Group Singapore Domestic Operations. "Winning this award is a firm affirmation of our continued excellence in academic and service delivery, and this recognition will further spur our efforts in bringing in international students to Singapore, from our network of over 600 centers in 47 countries globally."

Stringent pre-requisites were set for the qualification of the SQC PEO award. All educational program offered by PEOs must have approved accreditation bodies either locally, or abroad. The pre-requisites ensure high standards in academic delivery, educational facilities, and financial responsibility. Award winners must have an established system for assessing student learning with documentation of the results, e.g. the PEO should have an academically rigorous examination process such as proper setting of examination papers, proctored examination sessions, and grading procedures.

With this award, Informatics gains not only national-level recognition, but also qualifies for benefits aimed at easing the recruitment of international students into Singapore. One of the benefits is the "Green Lane" processing of Student Pass applications, with reduced processing time from four weeks to two weeks.

According to Leo Riingen, president and CEO of Informatics Philippines, with 'Green Lane', Filipino students studying in Informatics can have the option to study in Singapore through the International Student recruitment scheme—where the student pass visa processing takes a shorter time. Student pass will be valid for the entire duration of study with security deposits waived.

"As a leading global PEO, Informatics has the advantage in both size and global reach for bringing foreign students into Singapore, and this award is a culmination of various initiatives and efforts we have taken, such as upgrading our campus infrastructure to be fully computerized and wireless-Internet enabled, and overseas recruitment road shows," Wee said.

Informatics Group, established in 1983, is a multinational corporation providing lifelong learning services in information technology and business management. It started its Philippine operations in 1994 and has since then, grown to 43 centers nationwide.

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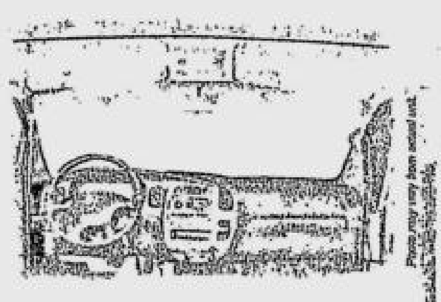

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40%	P372,000	48,793	33,490	27,038	19,341	15,607	13,355
50%	P465,000	40,366	27,704	22,373	16,004	12,914	11,048

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30%	P259,000	59,154	40,648	32,821	23,528	19,024	16,325
40%	P352,000	50,704	34,841	28,133	20,167	16,306	13,993
50%	P445,000	42,253	29,034	23,444	16,806	13,589	11,661

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2592. Series of 2003.

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Of junk mail, tie lengths and drinking soup from the bowl

GOODNESS GRACES

Lia S. Bernardo

Q: IS it ethical to drink your soup from a soup bowl with handles? My friend told me that for as long as there are handles on the bowl one can drink from it. Is this true? Is it true that chicken can be eaten with the hands?

A: First of all I would like to explain the difference between ethics and etiquette. Most people use the word ethical when asking questions on etiquette and these two words mean two different things. First of all, ethics pertains to morality and values. Thus, an example would be that it is unethical to lie on your resume. As such, it is not unethical to drink from your soup bowl; there is no moral dilemma in this. Nor could you say that it is unethical to eat chicken with your hands while at a formal dinner. It is however a breach of etiquette to drink from your soup bowl or to eat chicken with your hands at a formal dinner.

Etiquette rules are guidelines for proper and accepted social behavior, this is known as social graces, and business behavior known as business etiquette. They are not connected to morality and values but rather they are guidelines to create an environment that will enable those who participate to build either social or business relationships.

Etiquette is a set of norms and rules that pertain to one's conduct and behavior when in the company of others, whereas ethics deals with morality and values.

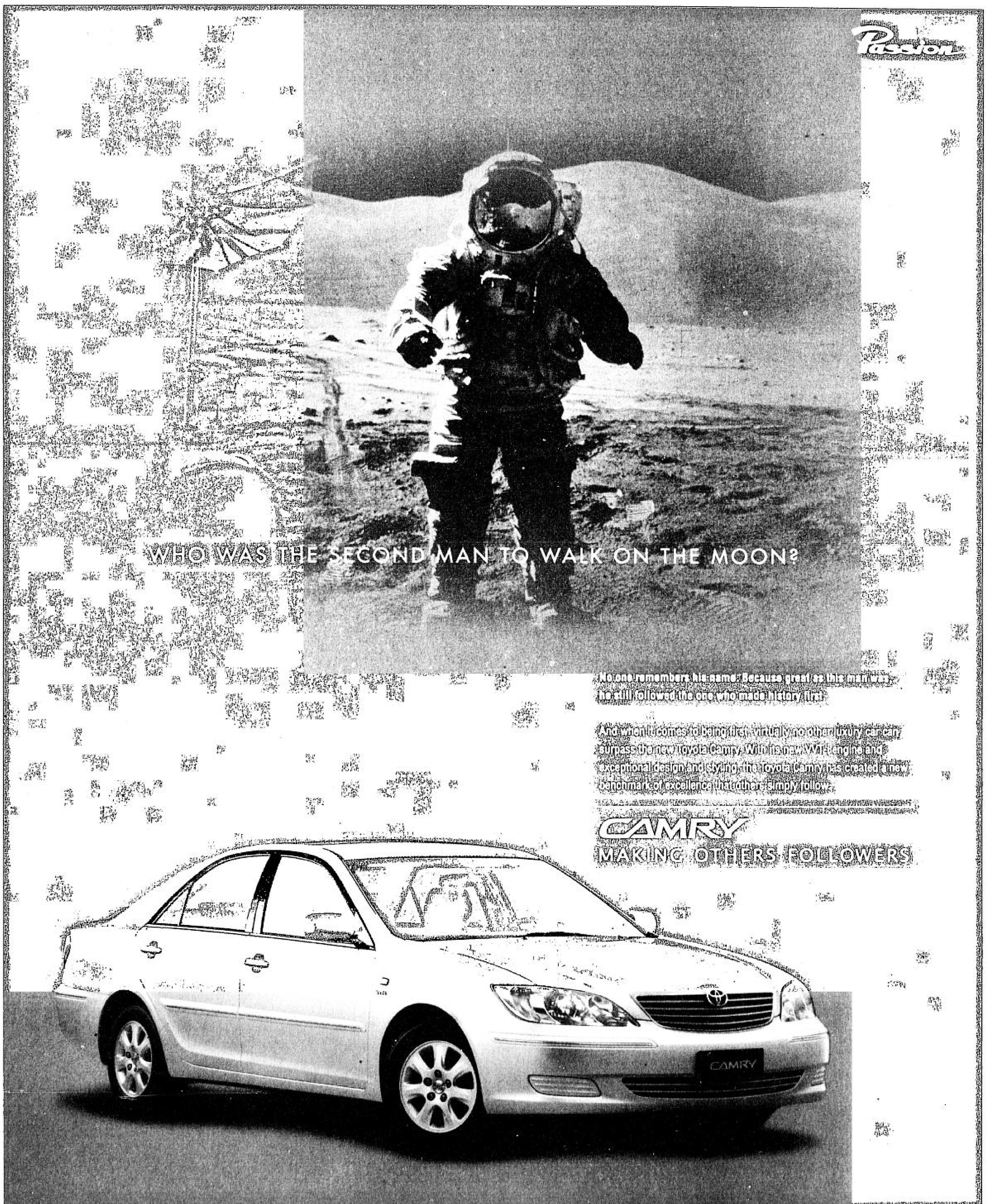
Now, in answer to your question. It is a breach of etiquette to drink from your soup bowl. However, your friend is correct. If the soup bowl has handles, you are permitted to drink as if you are drinking from a cup. Knowing this however, I do not advise that you drink from your soup bowl whether handles are present or not. It is so much more refined to take soup with a soup spoon. And under no circumstances are you permitted to use your fingers when eating chicken at a formal dinner or even at an informal one. The best way is for you to practice using a fork and knife at home when chicken is served so that you can be more comfortable when the occasion calls for it. However, if you are at a beach picnic or a very informal family barbeque then by all means use your fingers.

Q. I receive at least 30 emails a day. Most of which are internal office communications. Some however are junk mail in the form of office mates and friends sending chain e-mails of photos, novenas, philosophical quotes and the like. How do I tactfully tell my office mates to stop sending me junk mail as my mailbox is clogged enough as it is.

A. This is a common problem. I'm sure lots of readers are sharing your sentiments. Creating a hotmail or yahoo account for your private e-mail correspondences should be the first step. First of all, your office email should be used only for business related purposes. Open your own email account via internet or via a service provider where you can do your private correspondence. Secondly, for the junk mail that you receive from your office, mates there is nothing wrong with issuing an internal e-mail to your officemates to ask them not to send you chain e-mails as it clogs up your mailbox.

You can say something to the ef-

OF JUNK/ B2-7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Editor Louie C. Camino

'Preachy' Ping concert targets young voters

THE ULTIMATE speech is delivered by Lacson, who keeps it short because he says he is a man of few words. VAL HANDUMON

By Nini Valera

THEY'RE young and they're passionate, and they believe only Sen. Ping Lacson as president of the Philippines is their only hope for the future.

In what could be a strategic move to win the youth vote in the 2004 elections, Senator Lacson's supporters, this time the youth market, dubbed YPL (Youth for Progressive Leadership), have embarked on a music marketing campaign for their presidential wannabe by holding the free concert "Yup Ping" last Friday night at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City.

ARNEE Hidalgo sings before the speeches begin.

Hosted by Philippine Basketball Association hosts Iya, Paolo Trillo and Janelle So, the show started with an upbeat note from new Rhythm and Blues artists Jay-R and Arnee, followed by a lineup of glam rock bands like Time Machine, Myxtreme, Chronic, Ntwine, and Aegis. The veteran show band True Faith was the show's finale.

Spot numbers from former South Border vocalist Luke Mejares were one of the *kilig* moments in the concert that was strung together seamlessly and seemingly effortlessly by the hosts spiels:

Iya: We're celebrating a night of inspiration and hope, a night where we recognize our potential for positive action.

Paolo: That's right, Iya! As you all know, there's a lot more that we young people can do aside from having a great time. We are not just good for gimmicks and good times. We are the future of our nation, and that truth should make us realize the responsibilities that come with it.

Janelle: Correct, Paolo, Even if we're young, we can accomplish a lot of things for our society. But take note, *ha*, that really depends on our own initiative. No one can really force us if we are not willing to contribute to change. Thankfully, we have groups of concerned youth leaders such as the Youth for Progressive Leadership, who have initiated events like this in order for all of us to get together.

What Rizal meant

The ultimate spiel, of course, came from Lacson himself, who went up on stage after sitting through almost two hours of ear-splitting music, to address the audience, which packed the venue only up to the lower box sections.

To the tune of what could be his campaign jingle, Lacson breezed through a short speech that high-lighted youth power and what it can do to change the country.

"Tonight we celebrate the hopes and dreams of this generation, your generation," he said.

"Our generation will make a difference for this country, for our people, for our future.

"When Gat Jose Rizal said the youth was the hope of the father land, what he actually meant was this: This country belongs to you! Never could a traditional politician cheat and lie to this generation.

"Tonight, you and I will lead a campaign against traditional politicians, corruption, a campaign against incompetence in governance."

'Having fun?'

Amid loud applause and against a backdrop of fireworks,

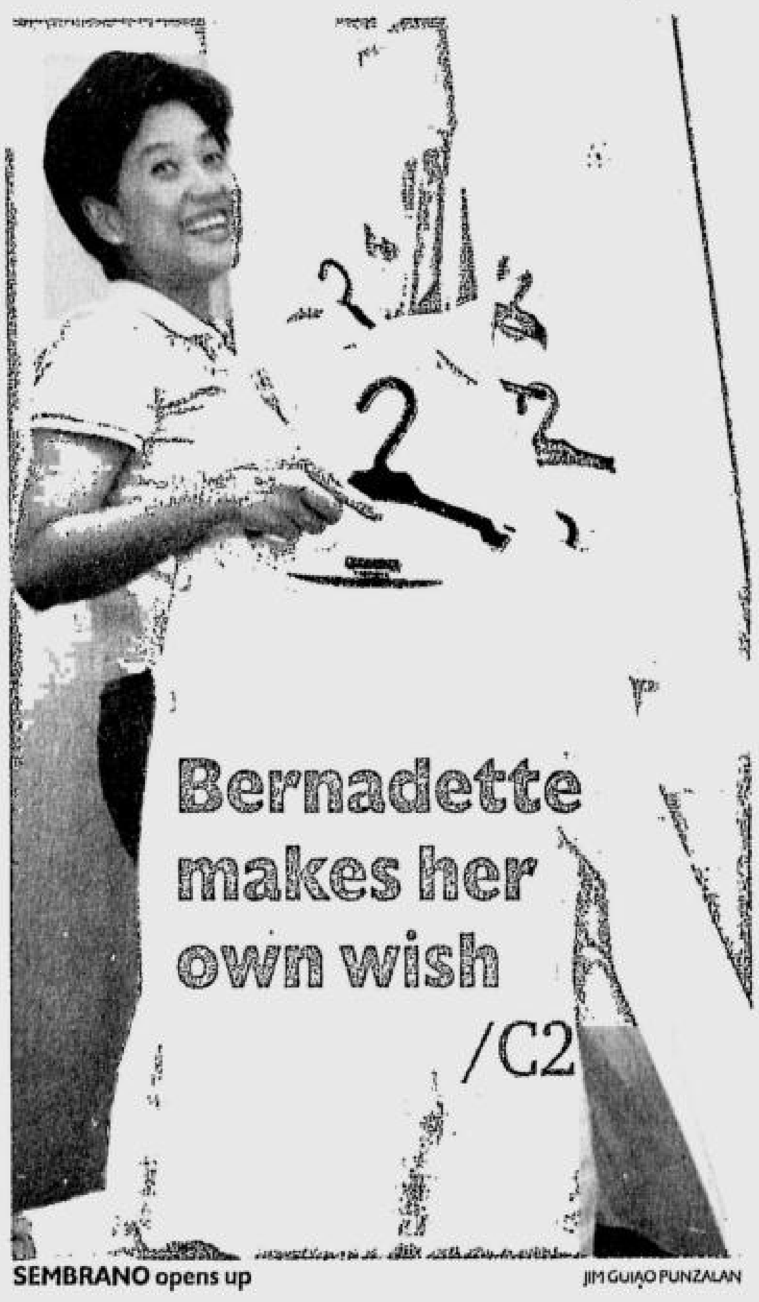
PREACHY/C4

DID YOU KNOW...

Sweethearts **Maritoni Fernandez** and **Hans Montenegro** were spotted having late-night dinner at Uva Restaurant in Greenbelt 2 last Thursday. They were with **Marc Nelson**, host of ABS-CBN's "Sports Unlimited," and a another guy who's not from show biz. Maritoni is playing surrogate mom to Hans' five-year-old love child with former model and beauty queen **Cara Subijano**, who is now based in California. The kid is vacationing in Manila for two months.

VIEWFINDER: Show biz stars exploit themselves

/C4



Bernadette makes her own wish

/C2

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FLOORED by the volume of clothes, she wants time to sort them out.

'I'm so busy that I sometimes feel like I don't have time for myself anymore, so my mom shops for me'

PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Bernadette makes her own wish

By Marinel R. Cruz

Hosting GMA 7's your-wish-is-granted show, "Wish Ko Lang," has changed Bernadette Sembrano's life in a big way. Being exposed to life's harsh realities has made her, for one, less attached to material possessions.

"I used to go for signature clothes and accessories when I was a teenager," says the 27-year-old host. "Now, I don't mind if I don't have them because I know that a lot of people are going through problems that are more complicated than mine."

"Wish Ko Lang," the weekly feature on GMA 7, has been winning favorable response from viewers because of its unique concept of granting people's wishes. The show celebrated its first anniversary last July 5.

Bernadette says her work for "Wish" and the investigative tele-magazine show "Probe Team" takes up a lot of her time. She is also the news anchor for "Flash Report" on weekdays and takes over Vicky Morales' post during weekends on the late-night news program "Saksi."

"I'm so busy that I sometimes feel like I don't have time for myself anymore," says Bernadette. "So it's my mom who buys clothes for me. Unfortunately, we don't go for the same styles."

Bernadette prefers jeans and white long-sleeves rather than the prints and floral shirts that her mom Elaine has been buying for her.

FOUR shows on television are not enough to make her slow down.

"I have white long-sleeved shirts of different cuts and designs," she says. "But I keep the clothes my mom buys for me."

Bernadette would rather shop for books than for clothes. She keeps her books in shelves that are all over her two-bedroom condo unit in Quezon City, where she has been living for three years now.

"I bring at least three books whenever I go out to do field work," she says. "I read them during long breaks. I still bring them even when I know I won't have time to read them."

Despite her very tight schedule, Bernadette has no intention of giving up even one of her shows, especially "Wish Ko Lang." But she wishes she could treat herself to a grand vacation sometime next year.

"I also wish I could have more time to sort my clothes and un-clutter my house because I don't have much space," she says.

If she had more free time, Bernadette would also love to relax and read her books in her newly refurbished *bahay kubo*, which stands on her terrace, overlooking the busy streets of the city.

OUT OF THE CLOSET

Current favorite book. "I'm now reading a book on spirituality titled 'Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World' by Henri J. M. Nouwen. It gives strength to the tired soul."

Favorite blazer. "I wear this gray blazer whenever I can't seem to decide on what to wear for newscast. It's been with me for a long time. I think it looks good on TV."

Favorite blanket. "I take this *malong* whenever I do field work. This has gone to a lot of places. It keeps me warm. I also use it as a beach towel. It's very useful whenever I take a bath in places where there are no bathrooms."

Favorite jeans. "I can't exactly remember when I bought this pair of 563 Levi's jeans. I love how it fits me, so I bought another pair just two days ago."

Memorable blouse. "I first wore this off-shoulder white blouse on 'Wish.' The promotional video ran for a year. This blouse isn't really my style, but I had to wear it because our designer approved it. I'll never wear this again because it isn't me. Besides, it will not fit me anymore."

Belt. "This is my only belt. It's from Esprit. I've had this for as long as I can remember. *Sira-sira na nga eh. Baka may gustong mag-donate.*"

Favorite nightshirt. "I've had this T-shirt since I was in high school. Printed on it is the cute face of a pig. *Butas-butas na*, its so old *na kasi*. I think my mom and I bought it in Divisoria *pa*."

Favorite shawl. "I bought this in one of the shops in Intramuros about two months ago. I love the color and the intricate design."

Favorite utility bag. "I always bring this Samsonite bag wherever I go. I think it's made to carry a laptop, but I put my books and *kikay* stuff inside."

Favorite accessories. "I only use pearl earrings. You can never go wrong with pearls. They can go with both formal and smart casual wear.

"I never leave the house without my rosary ring. If I accidentally leave it at home, I really go back to get it. It's so valuable to me because it gives me a sense of security. I don't always wear earrings, but I always wear my rosary ring."

Lip balm. "I always get chapped lips so I use this lip treatment from Lancome. I'm not a fan of expensive cosmetics, but this one is good."

Sunblock. "I can't leave the house without this Shiseido sunblock 30 because I do field work for 'Wish' and 'Probe.' You don't want to get burned out there."

Favorite perfume. "I've been using Sunflower since my college days in UP. The smell really makes you feel refreshed."

Favorite footwear. "You'll find nothing interesting in my shoe rack, really. I go for comfort, not for what is in nowadays. So I like wearing this pair of Teva sandals when I have to do field work. It's very practical, especially if you go to the beach, or go mountain climbing. You won't care even if you get them wet."

Boots. "I used to like wearing boots because I feel protected. They hug my feet nicely. But with the work I do now, I prefer wearing sandals *na lang*."

Memorable slippers. "I've not worn this pair of slippers yet. I bought them in Pateros because they remind me of my *lola*. I always see her wearing a pair just like this."

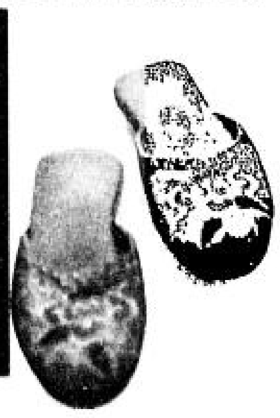
Memorable backpack. "I bought this 1.5-liter Camelback for last year's anniversary special of 'Probe Team.' Memorable *talaga*! I used this when we did a 'Survivor' episode. I also used this when Eliza (Zamora) and I climbed Mt. Dulang Dulang in 2001. *Naku, mamamatay ka talaga sa hirap!*"

(Mt. Dulang Dulang, located in Bukidnon, is the country's second highest peak and measures 2,983 above sea level.)

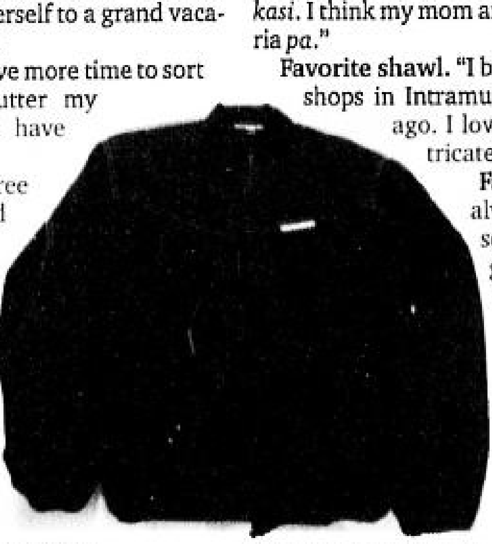
Memorable jacket. "I used this fleece jacket when we climbed Mt. Dulang Dulang. *Ang ginaw dun*, climbers would tell you. You need a thick jacket like this to keep you warm."

Favorite traveling bag. "I bought this *batik* bag in Davao. I bought this on impulse. Isn't it cute? This is my *maleta*. I use this for my out-of-town trips."

BAGGED. Her favorite for travelling is the batik bag from Davao (inset, left).



"LOLA"-STYLE



FLEECE-LINED jacket

SHAWL AND TELL. She bought this at a shop in Intramuros.

WHITE is beautiful, as many of her shirts show.

Maraming salamat, kapamilya.
Dahil sa limampung taon nating pagsasama, sa iyong puso,
ABS-CBN pa rin ang nangunguna.

TOP 5 MOST-WATCHED CHANNELS
PRIMETIME*

Rank	Channel	Audience Share (%)
1	ABS-CBN	49.0
2	GMA	26.7
3	Studio 23	5.9
	IBC	5.9
4	NBN	2.1
5	RPN	2.0

* 6:00pm to 10:00pm

TOP 5 MOST-WATCHED CHANNELS
MORNING

Rank	Channel	Audience Share (%)
1	**ABS-CBN**	**44.8**
2	GMA	30.2
3	Studio 23	4.2
4	Cinema 1	1.7
5	MTV Philippines	1.6

* 6:00am to 12:00nn

TOP 5 MOST-WATCHED CHANNELS
AFTERNOON

Rank	Channel	Audience Share (%)
1	**ABS-CBN**	**43.5**
2	GMA	36.0
3	Studio 23	5.1
4	RPN	1.9
5	IBC	1.6

* 12:00nn to 6:00pm

TOP 5 MOST-WATCHED CHANNELS
EVENING

Rank	Channel	Audience Share (%)
1	**ABS-CBN**	**46.1**
2	GMA	28.5
3	IBC	5.8
4	Studio 23	5.7
5	NBN	2.1

* 6:00pm to 12:00mn

OVERALL TOP 15 TELEVISION PROGRAMS

17 ABS-CBN programs are among the Top 15!

Rank	Program	Channel	Rating (%)
1	Meteor Garden	ABS-CBN	43.0
2	Darating Ang Umaga	ABS-CBN	38.5
3	Meteor Garden Rewind	ABS-CBN	37.7
4	Game KNB?	ABS-CBN	37.3
	Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas	ABS-CBN	37.3
5	Basta't Kasama Kita	ABS-CBN	34.5
6	Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay	ABS-CBN	32.8
7	TV Patrol	ABS-CBN	31.3
8	Maalaala Mo Kaya	ABS-CBN	31.1
9	Magandang Gabi... Bayan	ABS-CBN	28.5
10	OK Fine Whatever!	ABS-CBN	26.9
11	Buttercup	ABS-CBN	22.6
12	Whattamen	ABS-CBN	22.3
13	Berks	ABS-CBN	22.2
	Wansapanataym	ABS-CBN	22.2
14	Crush Gear Turbo	ABS-CBN	21.9
15	Home Along da Riles	ABS-CBN	20.9
	K! The P1,000,000 Videoke Challenge	GMA	20.9

TOP 5 MOST-WATCHED CHANNELS
OVERALL*

Rank	Channel	Audience Share (%)
1	ABS-CBN	44.9
2	GMA	31.4
3	Studio 23	5.2
4	IBC	3.5
5	RPN	1.8

* 6:00am to 12:00mn

Source: AGB Mega Manila Households Data, 29 June - 05 July 2003

**Mas palalakasin. Mas patatatagin.
Dahil ang aming tanging hangad
ay ang ikaw ay mapaglingkuran.**

50 YEARS

ABS-CBN
TELEVISION
SINCE 1953

New wrinkle

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LOCAL sitcoms and gag shows on TV have hewed pretty much to the same formats and gimmicks for years. Recently, however, a relatively new wrinkle has made itself evident on a number of comedy-oriented programs: Actors drop out of character and come up with their own ad libs, or make references to events and people in their own lives.

These touches have turned out to be popular and *kuwela* with TV audiences. What accounts for this reaction? One would think that actors who fall out of character would turn off viewers who are trying to believe in what's happening on the TV screen, so they can more fully empathize with the feelings of the characters in a show.

But local viewers appear to be less rigorous in their expectations of the programs they watch. It's fun for them to see actors admitting that the characters they play in a comedy show aren't what they really are.

Some observers approve of this development because it is "irreverent," "honest," "fresh" and "unexpected." Others, however, believe that it waters down a show's sense of professionalism, and makes every TV evening "amateur night."

What do you think?

We say that this development is relatively new, because it's been done by a couple of shows for many years, starting with "Palibhasa Lalake" in the '80s.

The fact that more shows are doing it now indicates that the trend toward "reality" programming has become more popular than ever, and some TV talents are only too happy to oblige.

Seen from a more general perspective, however, this new wrinkle can be viewed as a move to place even greater importance on stars' lives than on the entertainment quotient of the shows in which they appear.

Put another way, stars' lives have become "entertaining" in themselves, especially when mined for "naughty" gossip, scandal and controversy by their comedy-oriented programs.

Thus, the male comedian makes winking references to his ex-wife, current girlfriend, other stars he's had disagreements with, etc. Correspondingly, in their own shows, the ex-wife and the girlfriend also come up with ad libs about their past and present relationships with the male comic.

This shows that today's stars no longer fight for their privacy, but have come to realize that their popularity now depends in part on how willing they are to exploit their own problems or funny situations in life.

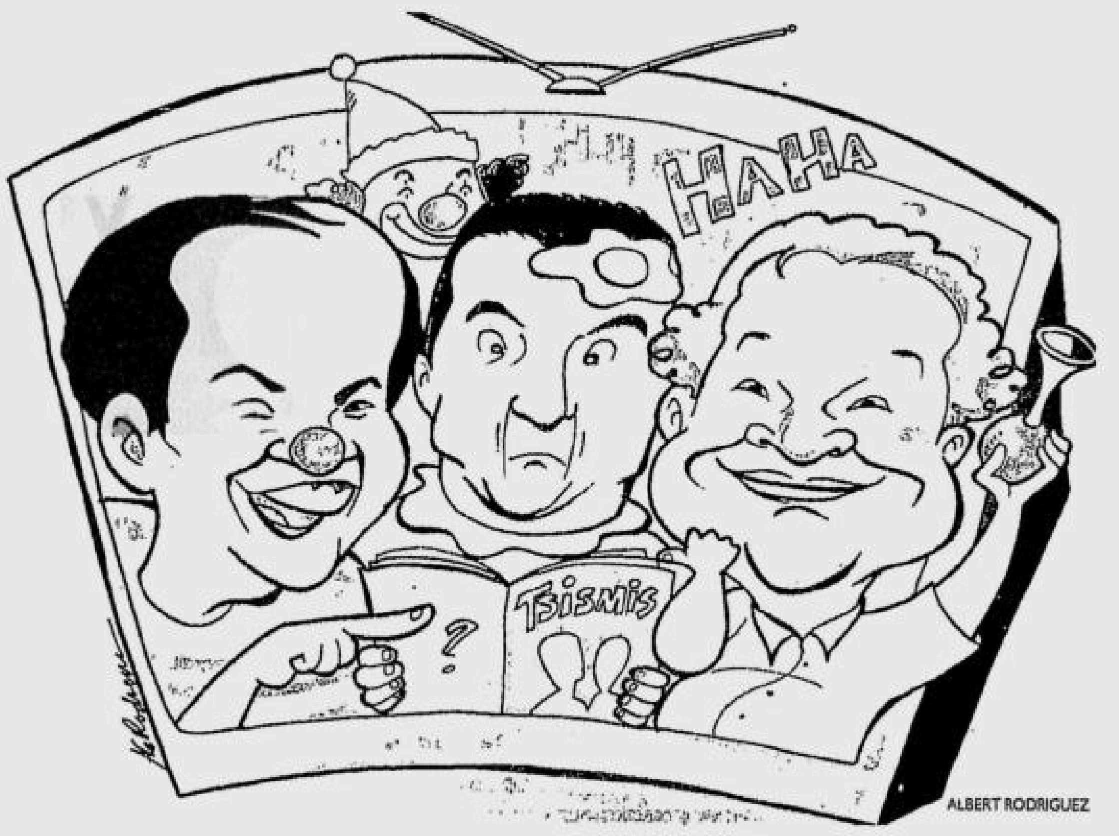
This can be viewed as a "practical" appreciation of the new realities on the local show biz scene. But it's also an indication of how jaded some stars have become.

To luminaries like them, everything is fair game, in the name of career advancement.

Before others try to use them, they're cheerfully exploiting themselves, and they're ending up as both the spoofed and the spoofers of their own lives.

Feedback

FROM Ramon Alfonso A. Fuentes, also known as "Lexicop," a concerned senior citizen; "Please do not take umbrage at this simple, sincere call to attention by the founding and sole bona fide member of Amateur Lexicographers Anonymous (ALA), who functions as 'Lexicop,' patrolling the vast expanse of the verbal and non-verbal media.



ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

"I chanced upon an assertion in your Boob-tube Booboos of May 29 that triggered my alarm system. The said assertion, '*Ay*, pieces of advice!,' insinuates that the said locution is erroneous. It isn't.

"Advice, like information, equipment, legislation, etc., is an abstract noun, the plural form of which is correctly constituted by the compound noun adjectival phrase, 'pieces of.' Needless to say, advices, as a plural form of the abstract noun at issue, is incorrect.

"Taking leave, I wish to thank you for a most engaging piece of work. However, I hope that you subscribe to the postulate as enunciated by the world-famous lexicographer, William Safire, that: 'Nobody stands taller than he who stands corrected.'"

'Frida': Portrait of a painter in pain

By Irene Andrea C. Perez

REVIEW

THERE are artists who paint dreams, truths, lies, half-lies, delusions and illusions in mad strokes on canvas, but their lives and works are not as celebrated as that of Mexican visual artist Frida Kahlo.

"They thought I was a surrealist, but I wasn't," Kahlo said.

"I never painted dreams. I painted my own reality."

Kahlo, who sported a unibrow and a mustache, might be the last person to classify her art, which comprised mainly of self-portraits, images of bloody births and deaths, disembodied organs, mutations and transformations of the human body. She had used blood, brains and torn limbs in her images long before modern or post-modern artists and advertisers thought of the idea.

French philosopher Jacques Derrida best described that feature of Kahlo's art as something "to let the outside show the inside, eliminating physical barriers such as skin, to exhibit outside the inside of her life."

Fractured fantasies

Kahlo's works were overlooked in Mexico after her death, until collectors and art critics from other parts of the world took notice, prompting her home country to make business out of her.

Madonna and Robert de Niro as Kahlo devotees amplified public interest in her paintings, which were auctioned for high sums.

There was much "Fridamania" in the '90s and a biopic of Kahlo was planned. Salma Hayek wrestled the role from Madonna and Jennifer Lopez, and produced the film on the Mexican icon's life. Director Julie Taymor ("Titus") gathered the highlights of Kahlo's story and turned them into a compelling film.

"Frida" the movie begins in 1922 with Kahlo as the mischievous teenage daughter of a wealthy Mexican family. When she was 18, a trolley hit the bus she was riding, leaving her with broken bones and fractured fantasies. A metal hand rail pierced the right side of her body; her spinal column, some ribs and pelvis were broken; her right leg was fractured in 11 places; and her foot was crushed.

Kahlo was forced to stay in a body cast for months and started painting out of boredom. Her works are narcissistic, confessional and self-absorbed.

She sought professional criticism from Diego Rivera (Alfred Molina), a muralist known for being a womanizer and a Communist who became her comrade and husband.

The film focuses on Kahlo's physical aches and Rivera's infidelities as major inspirations of her work. She had her share of affairs with men as well as women, including that with Russian revolutionist Leon Trotsky whom Rivera helped get political asylum in Mexico.

Work of art

Taymor paints Kahlo and Rivera's trip to New York in digital collages. Rivera is depicted as King Kong, to show his rise and fall in New York where his political beliefs were unwelcome.

"Frida" is a visual experience like Kahlo's paintings. There is a festival of color throughout the film. Scenes are shown in bold, energetic combinations of dominant red, lush greens, spirited yellow, brilliant blues and damp-earth brown. Fantasy sequences are shown in black and white slowly coming into color.

THE REAL Frida Kahlo, who painted her own reality

In some sequences, images in Kahlo's paintings slowly come to life as Hayek and Molina. Often, Kahlo is illuminated as a work of art herself in an ornate, multicolored Mexican ensemble.

The acting is good, particularly of Valeria Golino as Rivera's former wife Lupe, Geoffrey Rush as Trotsky, and Roger Rees as Kahlo's graceful father. Antonio Banderas plays a cameo as muralist David Alfaro Siqueiros.

Ashley Judd is unfortunately miscast as Tina Modotti and her portrayal of the Mexican photographer is rather distracting. Judd is an add-on to the movie for marketing purposes. The same goes for Edward Norton who plays Nelson Rockefeller.

Hayek is consistently fiery and mystifying in this breakthrough performance. Her only flaw is she makes Kahlo too likable.

Pain swims

The film has tones of feminism as it portrays the woman painter in control. Kahlo took the back seat as an artist thinking her works were never good enough, while her husband reaped acclaim for his. But in the end, Kahlo's paintings turned out to be more revered than Rivera's murals.

"I drank to drown my pain, but the damned pain learned how to swim, and now I am overwhelmed by this decent and good behavior," Kahlo was quoted as saying. Rivera's infidelities and her deteriorating heath brought her to depression and substance abuse. She was depicted as a "victim"—of the accident, Rivera, society and her health. But rather than sulk, she guzzled tequila, flirted and painted.

Too bad most fans are after the story of her life, and, often, her paintings become mere illustrations, patterns for shirts, posters and everything cool.

"Frida" is a marvelous portrayal of Kahlo's life, including disturbing truths about the artist painted on the big screen using a palette of splendid colors.

On July 13, 1954, Frida Kahlo, 47, died of what was rumored to be suicide. No autopsy was done. In her last diary entry, she wrote: "I hope the leaving is joyful and I hope never to return."

THE REEL Frida, portrayed by Hayek (with Molina), who is herself a Mexican and who makes the real one too likable.

Good times at Merk's

SHOW TIME

JULY means more good times at Merk's Bar Bistro at Greenbelt 3 in Makati City.

Silk & Steel has all Mondays covered, with Romy Posadas behind "Happy Hour." Route 70 is in the house July 17, 24 and 31, while Forte swings July 15, 18, 22, 25 and 29.

Merk & Friends jam all Wednesdays of the month with singer Ladine Roxas, while Pido with Take One takes center stage July 19.

On July 15, the duo Elderly Brothers, featuring Lito Dumantay and Larry Javier, dishes out classic Everly Brothers hits.

On July 16 and 23, Joey 92.3 presents "Joey After Work" featuring R&B newcomer Savannah.

For inquiries and reservations, call Merk's at 757-4720 or 757-4721. Visit Merk's Bar Bistro's website at merksbarbistro.com or e-mail the bar at mail@merksbarbistro.com.

'Preachy' Ping...

From page C1

Lacson shouted: "Are you having fun? Is everybody having fun? Do you want to have more fun tonight? Then let's have more fun tonight."

As True Faith took center stage, Lacson said backstage that he kept his speech short because he was a man of few words and he didn't want to spoil the concert's momentum with his rhetoric.

Asked if he really went for rock music, Lacson, who watched the concert with glassy eyes that showed life only when his jingle was sung, said in Filipino, "You know, I'm getting old so I go for sad, weepy songs."

He expressed genuine surprise at the turnout and claimed he never expected the huge number of young people who came to the concert.

'Hundred thousands'

One of these young persons was Yam Escano, 20, who, during the show, introduced her mother to Lacson. She told INQUIRER Entertainment that the concerts organizers started as a group of friends who were training leaders to educate the youth about politics. Escano said some of these friends, like herself, were students of Thames Business School.

"We started as a group of 20 friends, but we're now into the hundred thousands," she claimed.

Escano said she could not say who bankrolled the event, but admitted that they had help from special supporters of Lacson. She added that YPL also raised funds to produce the concert.

Event organizer Arnold Vegafria, who also manages show biz talents, mounted the show, which had decent production values if not monumental show biz names.

"But I'm just a hired hand here," Vegafria said in a telephone conversation with this writer. "I know the kids received donations, like someone took care of a band's fee. But most of them charged only token fees. Some practically performed for free."

'We see hope'

Jam Barronda, 25, one of the organizers, said, "This thing (YPL) started in October last year. We're all friends and we come from different schools. Like I'm from Iloilo, some are from the University of the Philippines in Manila, Thames, St. Scholastica's College. We just talked among ourselves and realized that the youth has so many problems, especially drug addiction. We see in Senator Lacson hope. We see this in his programs, his advocacy against drugs, his fight for justice, his drive to restore peace and order in society. We saw his potential as a great leader who would erase graft and corruption in government."

Jason Malajacan, 20, who also belongs to the core group of YPL, said he remembers Lacson's achievements during his stint as chief of the Philippine National Police.

"Like I was a student then and I felt safe to go out on gimmicks," Malajacan said. "I was not worried that my car would be stolen or there would be a policeman who would try to extort money from me when I was driving home."

Malajacan stressed that "Yup Ping" was not a political event. "If you notice, we did not even allow him to speak at length," he said in Filipino. "We just acknowledged his presence."

'It's a party'

Lacson himself could not describe the event accurately. "It's a party," he said. "Here's a group of young people who approached me in my office and signified their intent to help in changing the country. I went along with them. This is their first event, I think. I just follow what they tell me to do. If they tell me to go to this place, I go. I was here at 8."

The concert started an hour late, but Lacson used the time to pose for pictures and sign autographs. Seated beside him in the lower box portion of the astrodome was the youthful Cavite Vice Gov. Gilbert Remulla while Pasay City Mayor Peewee Trinidad was in the front row of the orchestra.

In closing the show, host Janelle So said she wished that "our artists' messages of hope and inspiration have struck a resounding chord in each and everyone of you, and that somehow, we have roused enough sentiments for you to make you do your own small part in society."

Never has a concert been this preachy.

ALL DIGITAL SOUND

AYALA CINEMAS

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 TERMINATOR 3	1 TERMINATOR 3	Art Film 1 DANCER IN THE DARK 1 30, 4 00, 6 30, 9 00	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 TERMINATOR 3 1 00, 3 25, 5 50, 8 15 10 40	THX 1 TERMINATOR 3
2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE	2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE	2 TERMINATOR 3 11 40, 2 05, 4 30, 6 55, 9 30	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 HULK 12 50 3 20	2 TERMINATOR 3
3 THE HUNTED	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 TERMINATOR 3 12 30 3 00 5 30 6 00 10 30	TERMINATOR 3 11 40, 2 05, 4 30, 6 55, 9 30	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 TERMINATOR 3 1 40, 4 05 6 30, 8 55, 11 20	3 TERMINATOR 3
4 TERMINATOR 3	4 DUMB & DUMBERER		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 THE HUNTED 12 25, 2 35, 4 45, 6 55 9 05 11 15	4 THE HUNTED
	5 TERMINATOR 3		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE 12 10 2 20 4 30 6 40 8 50 11 00	CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE
	6 28 DAYS LATER			
	7 THE HUNTED			

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3 (DTS)	TERMINATOR-3
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	THE HUNTED
2	THE HULK
3 (DOLBY)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown

(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	BIGAY HILIG
2	DARKNESS FALLS
3 (DOLBY)	THE HULK
4 (DTS)	SO CLOSE

Magic Star Cinema

(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	SO CLOSE
2 (DTS)	DARKNESS FALLS
3	BIGAY HILIG

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	HIGH RISK
2	BIGLANG LIKO
3 (DTS)	HINOG SA PILIT
4	RESERVE

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
2	ANGEL SA LUPA
3 (DTS)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
5	28 DAYS LATER

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	TERMINATOR-3
2	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
3	28 DAYS LATER

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 249.2558

1	TERMINATOR-3
2	28 DAYS LATER
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Mega Center Mall

(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2	TUMITIBK KUMIKIROT
3 (DTS)	THE EYE
4	CONFESSION OF DANGEROUS MIND

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	HIRAM
2	THE MATRIX RELOADED
3	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	A MAN APART
2	WISH MASTER
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	PIGLET THE MOVIE

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	TERMINATOR-3
2	ABANDON
3 (DTS ES)	TERMINATOR-3
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Cine Nepo Mall

(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2	MUNTING TINIG
3 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
4 (DTS)	TERMINATOR-3

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

FESTIVAL CINEMA

Level 4

Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang

Tel. 85035-71 to 72

Schedule subject to change without prior notice

NOW SHOWING
TERMINATOR 3
RISE OF THE MACHINES

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR

4173888

1	DUMB & DUMBERER
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	THE HUNTED
5	TERMINATOR 3
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
8	HULK

SM CENTERPOINT

7149522 -7161416

1	THE HUNTED
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	28 DAYS LATER
5	TERMINATOR 3
6	DUMB & DUMBERER
7	TERMINATOR 3
8	HULK
9	TERMINATOR 3
10	HINOG SA PILIT

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1	DUMB & DUMBERER
2	PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE
3	HINOG SA PILIT
4	TERMINATOR 3
5	28 DAYS LATER
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7	TERMINATOR 3
8	THE HUNTED
9	HULK
10	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
11	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
12	TERMINATOR 3

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2	THE HUNTED
3	28 DAYS LATER
4	TERMINATOR 3
5	DUMB & DUMBERER
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
8	MUNTING TINIG
9	TERMINATOR 3
10	ANG TANGING INA
11	HULK
12	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

SM MEGAMALL

6331001 • 6329401

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
5	THE HUNTED
6	PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE
7	DUMB & DUMBERERER
8	28 DAYS LATER
9	HULK
10	TERMINATOR 3
11	ANG TANGING INA
12	HINOG SA PILIT

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1	THE HUNTED
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	DUMB & DUMBERER
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
5	28 DAYS LATER
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
8	TERMINATOR 3

SM SOUTHMALL

8066888

1	DANCER IN THE DARK
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
5	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
6	HULK
7	THE HUNTED
8	TERMINATOR 3
9	28 DAYS LATER
10	DUMB & DUMBERER

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3	THE HUNTED
4	SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE
5	MUNTING TINIG
6	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
7	HULK
8	TERMINATOR 3

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1	ANG KAPITBAHAY
2	CLOSED
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	HULK
5	TERMINATOR 3
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7	CLOSED
8	MGA MUNTING TINIG

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4	TUMITIBOK, KUMIKIROT
5	MUNTING TINIG
6	THE HUNTED

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

8294975

1	THE HUNTED
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3	THE HUNTED
4	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	HULK
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	THE HUNTED
5	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6	TERMINATOR 3

SM BICUTAN

776-3055

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3	THE HUNTED
4	TERMINATOR 3

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

859-2884

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4	TERMINATOR 3

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1	TERMINATOR 3 11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6.20/8:40/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2 11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6.20/8:40/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee : P100.00 - Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
Regular Rate P120.00 - After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMAS

@ Robinsons Malls

call-a-movie: 536- 7812

NOW SHOWING

Galleria

632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

THX	TERMINATOR 3
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
5	TERMINATOR 3
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	HULK
8	THE HUNTED
9	DUMB & DUMBERER
10	28 DAYS LATER

MATINEE PRICE: P90 THX cinema / P75 1level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita

536 -7809- 12

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	28 DAYS LATER
3	DUMB & DUMBERER
4	TERMINATOR 3
5	THE HUNTED
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Metro East - Marcos hway

682- 8193 / 8280

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	TERMINATOR 3
4	THE HUNTED
5	DUMB & DUMBERER
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	TERMINATOR 3
8	28 DAYS LATER

Novaliches

935- 3229 - 30

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	HULK
4	28 DAYS LATER
5	DUMB & DUMBERER
6	THE HUNTED
7	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
8	TERMINATOR 3

Malabon Citisquare

288-0985 / 288-2575

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	REAL CANCUN

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp.

(045)875-1927
(045)961-5270

1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2	SMALL VOICES
3	SOUL KEEPER
4	TUMITIBOK..KUMIKIROT
5	TERMINATOR 3
6	TERMINATOR 3

Imus

471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	THE HUNTED
5	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
6	TERMINATOR 3

Sta. Rosa Laguna

(049)837-0907

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	THE HUNTED
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
5	TERMINATOR 3

Bacolod

441- 0453 / 0459

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3	THE HUNTED
4	TERMINATOR 3
5	SMALL VOICES
6	BALIKATAN

Iloilo

336- 8077 - 78

1	TERMINATOR 3
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3	KAPIT BAHAY
4	TERMINATOR 3
5	THE GURU
6	SMALL VOICES

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

More acoustic nights at Ipanema

Show Time

DJ MIKE Solomon, Lana Jalosjos and Karl Villuga of Akafellas take center stage in the July Acoustic Nights of Praia de Ipanema Bar at the Eastwood City Walk in Libis, Quezon City, starting tonight at 9 p.m.

The Essence Band, featuring boy wonder Francis "Wings" Soriano, and the MYMP (Make Your Momma Proud) trio will drive the blues away on Tuesday and Wednesday nights, respectively.

Thursdays are Jamming and Discovery Nights on July 17 and 24, featuring acoustic balladeer Jon Cruise.

Acoustic groups and solo performers are invited to show their wares and have the chance to be the next music sensation.

Jimmy Bondoc, one of the country's most promising recording artists, concludes the month-long gig with a return performance on July 28.

Named after a resort district in Rio de Janeiro, Praia de Ipanema is the leading Brazilian-inspired restaurant in the metropolis.

For inquiries and reservations, call 421-7764 to 65 or text 0920-9051532.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

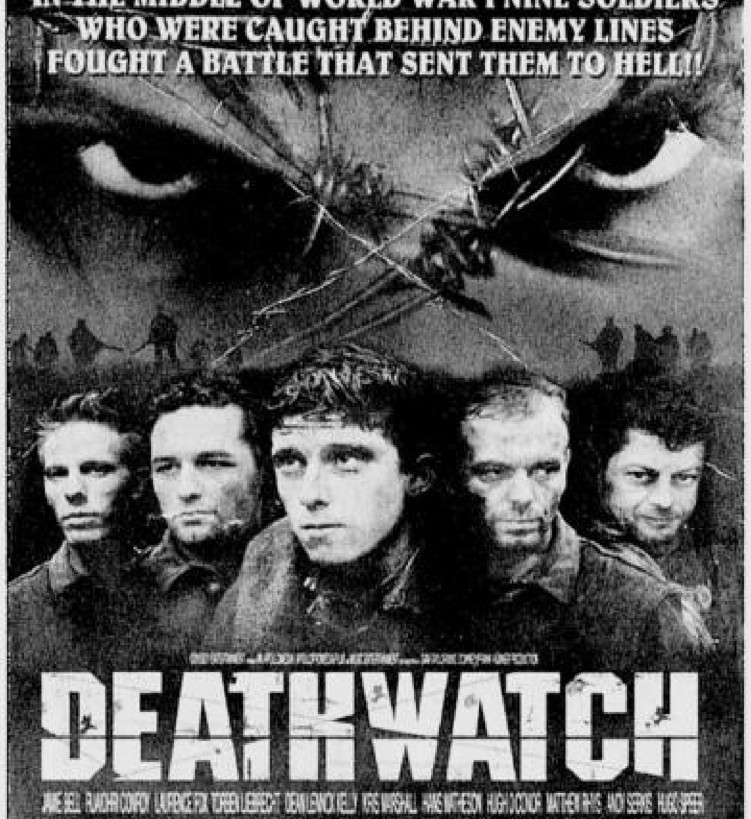
ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	HULING BIRHEN
Ali 2	TANGING INA
Ali 3	TERMINATOR 3
Ali 4	TERMINATOR 3
Ali 5	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
Ali 6	DUMB & DUMBERER
Ali 7	THE HUNTED

ARANETA COLISEUM

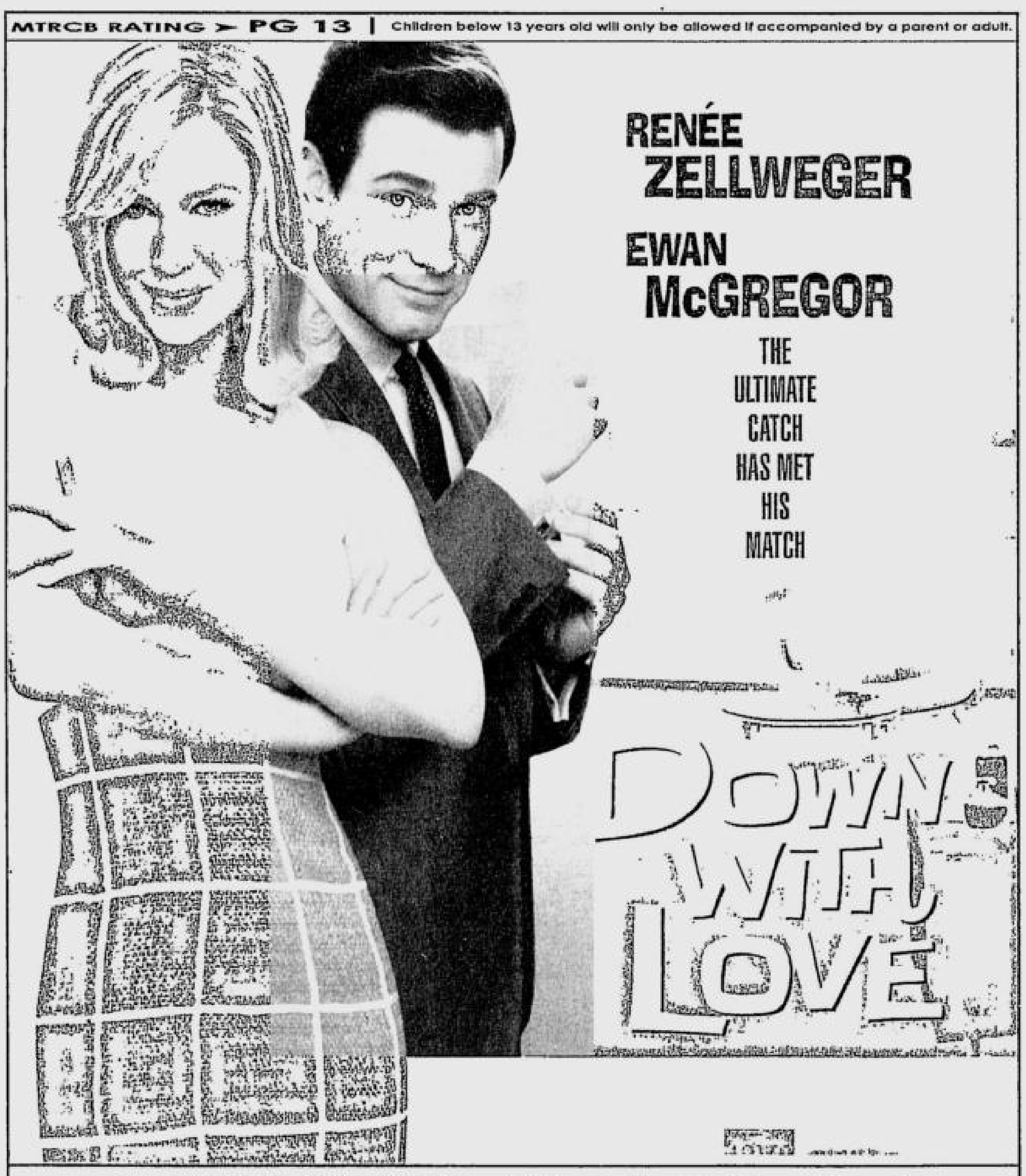
JULY 17	UAAP GAME
JULY 14	UAAP GAME
JULY 25	DON MOEN CONCERT
JULY 26	DON MOEN CONCERT
AUG 01	DON MOEN CONCERT
AUG 02	JUST ONCE...GREATEST HITS
Opens December 2003	DISNEY ON ICE Featuring "Beauty & The Beast"

MTRCB RATING R-13 Strictly 13 years and up


IN THE MIDDLE OF WORLD WAR I NINE SOLDIERS WHO WERE CAUGHT BEHIND ENEMY LINES FOUGHT A BATTLE THAT SENT THEM TO HELL!!
DEATHWATCH

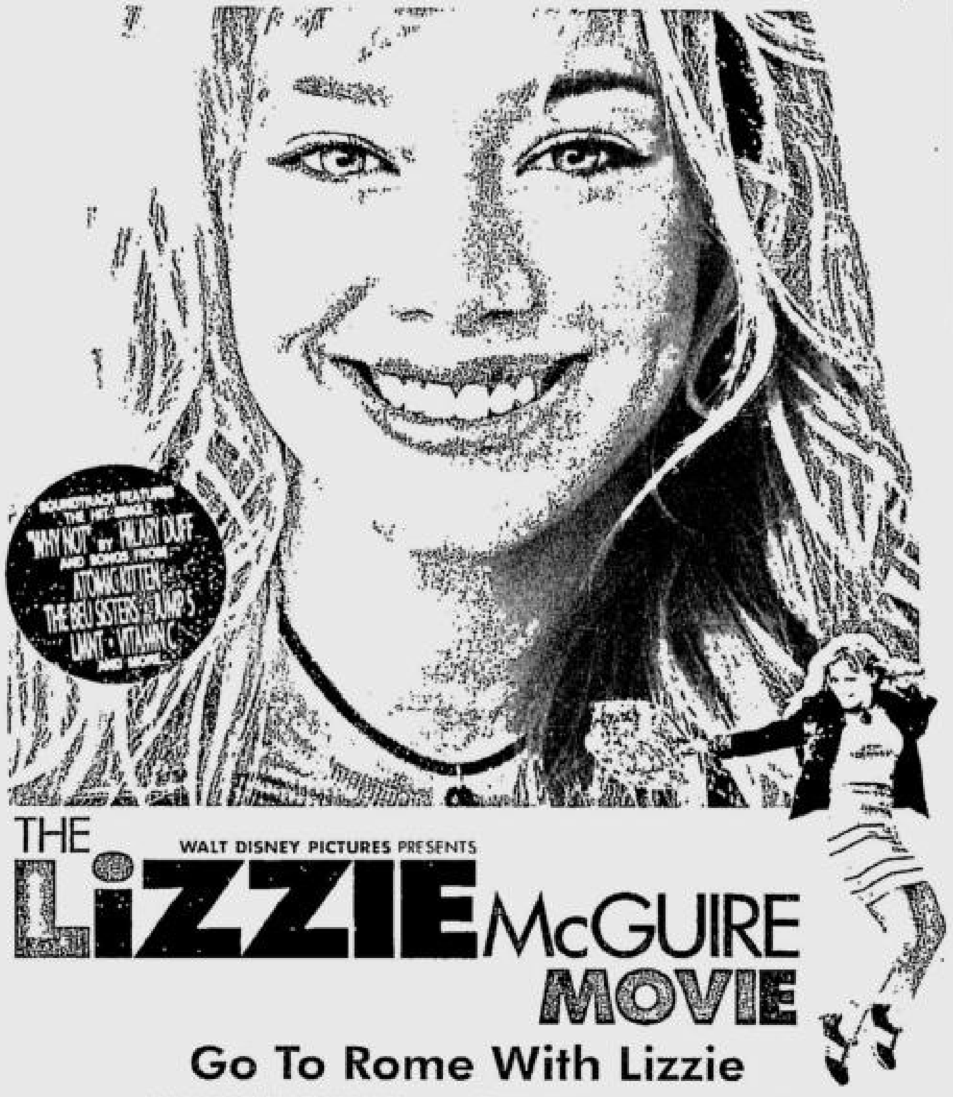
"NO FEAR" ACTION BEGINS JULY 16!

MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.


RENÉE ZELLWEGER
EWAN McGREGOR
THE ULTIMATE CATCH HAS MET HIS MATCH
DOWN WITH LOVE

OPENS JULY 16

THE U.S.' HOTTEST TEEN SENSATION HITS THE BIG SCREEN !
OPENS JULY 16
MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED
HILARY DUFF


SOUNDTRACK FEATURES THE HIT SINGLE "WHY NOT" BY HILARY DUFF AND SONGS FROM ATOMIC KITTEN THE BEU SISTERS JUMP5 LMNT VITAMIN C AND MORE

WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS
THE LIZZIE McGUIRE MOVIE
Go To Rome With Lizzie
WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS "THE LIZZIE McGUIRE MOVIE"
A STAN ROGOW PRODUCTION ADAM LAMBERG ROBERT CARRADINE HALLIE TODD JAKE THOMAS
MUSIC BY CLIFF EIDELMAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DAVID ROESSELL TERRI MINSKY PRODUCED BY STAN ROGOW
WRITTEN BY SUSAN ESTELLE JANSEN AND ED DECTER & JOHN J. STRAUSS DIRECTED BY JIM FALL
lizziemcguire.com
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

AYALA CINEMAS
OPENS JULY 16 ONLY AT ArtFilm
DARING, AWARD-WINNING, EXTRAORDINARY

A fresh and uniquely quirky romance redolent of a more indulgent cinema of yesteryear.
CHRISTINA RICCI is
MIRANDA
also starring:
KYLE McCLACHLAN, JOHN SIMM & JOHN HURT

A small-town librarian (John Simm) falls head-over-heels with a beautiful stranger (Cristina Ricci). She is secretly enmeshed in a darkly complex web of intrigue and deceit between her con artist-mentor (John Hurt) and a sleazy millionaire (Kyle MacLachlan). Seeking solace in the bright albeit naive embrace of her loopy new lover, but it's anybody's guess whether they'll emerge unscathed from this high-stakes game

Miranda was screened at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival

MTRCB Rating:
Restricted 18 (R-18)
NOKIA
Solar FILMS INC.

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ALABANG TOWN CENTER
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OR LOG ON TO www.sureseats.com FOR WEB RESERVATION.
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MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)
COLUMBIA PICTURES
EXPERIENCE IT BEST AT AYALA CINEMAS

SCHWARZENEGGER
TERMINATOR 3
RISE OF THE MACHINES

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www.XXX.com
must be 18 to ENTER this SITE.
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a film by Tikoy Aguiluz
CLOSE
Click to VOTE
Click to REVIEW
Tell a FRIEND
FHM
MAVERICK

Stars at Star malls

SHOW TIME

MOVIE and television stars will spend an afternoon with their fans at Metropolis Star's group of malls starting Tuesday, July 15.

Rapper and movie-TV star Carlos Agassi will promote his latest album, "Can Agassi Rap Like Old School," on July 15 at the Starmall on Shaw Boulevard corner Edsa in Mandaluyong City.

The young stars of "Tabing Ilog" will take part in an afternoon of fun and games and sign autographs at the Metropolis Star in Alabang on July 19, starting at 4 p.m.

The "Jobs for the Community 2003" was held at the Metropolis Star 4th Level Trade Hall on July 11. Metropolis Star, together with the Muntinlupa City government, organized this job fair as part of its efforts to help the community.

On July 20, the Starland Theme Park and Resort on the fourth level of Metropolis Star will stage a magic show starting at 3 p.m.

Metropolis Star joins the government in celebrating Nutrition Month this July with an on-the-spot drawing contest for kids 12 years old and below at the Starland Theme Park and Resort on July 27. Registration is ongoing. For details, call 850-4283 or 85.

The elimination round for Starmall's "Search for a Star Voice" will be on July 27 at the Concert Hall. The contest is open to those between 12 and 25 years old. Auditions are held every Friday at the third level Bridgeway.

Candidates for the Search for the Circle of 10 talent roster will have their talent night at the Concert Hall on July 19.

Comedy shows at the 3rd level Bridgeway is on every Wednesday at 9 p.m., while Fridays are cool music nights.

PROVEN
NATIONWIDE!

KEEMPEE de Leon entertains the crowd. Left, Touch Mobile couple Aga and Charlene flanked by Boy Abunda and Arnel Ignacio.

Touch Mobile celebrates 1M mark

RESIDENTS of Rizal towns were recently treated by Touch Mobile to a star-studded show in Cainta to celebrate its hitting the one million mark in subscriber base.

Dubbed "Arriba Rizal," the Mexican-inspired show was held at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall.

Starring Touch Mobile's celebrity endorsers Aga Mulach and Charlene Gonzales, the show also featured young actors Onemig Bondoc, Dingdong Dantes and Keempee de Leon.

TV host and funnyman Arnel Ignacio kept the audience entertained with trivia and parlor games.

TV host Boy Abunda talked about Touch Mobile's Voice Info service, where Touch Mobile subscribers simply dial 8140 to get the latest show biz news and blind items as well as movie schedules and horoscopes.

The highlight of the show was the unveiling of Touch Mobile's newest TV commercial which stresses that "family matters most." It shows a young girl working her way through law school, all the while supported by her family.

Buyers of Touch Mobile SIM Packs also had their SIM packs signed by the guest celebrities. The Cainta event was part of Touch Mobile's aggressive network marketing roll-out program.

Eddie Garcia, 84, ponders ...

From page C8

king Dolphy have remained active and still on top.

5 golden rules

We asked Eddie to give five lessons he has learned in show business which could prove valuable to the next generation of stars, and he obliged. So, here are the five golden rules by which Eddie Garcia lives his life:

First: "If you have nothing good to say, don't say it. It's a pity that this business is usually run by loose talk. Big and small decisions are made based on hearsay and gossip. Quite simply, if someone talks ill about someone, don't pass it on, not even just for the sake of conversation. You never know when you're just having fun or when you're destroying a life."

Second: "Everything in moderation. When you eat, eat well but not much. When you drink, be sure you still know your way back to your home and not to someone else's bed."

Third: "Don't get involved with the leading lady, especially when you're the leading man or the director. I don't subscribe to what they say that you have to fall in love with your lading lady so that your romantic scenes would look good. I mean, you don't have to kill someone to portray well the role of an assassin. Neither do you have to try drugs to give life to a junkie onscreen."

Fourth: "To keep your sanity, don't bring your role to your home, leave it on the set where it belongs. The script is not your life. Your family members are not characters in the movie you're making. Big problems begin when you start to forget that."

Fifth: "An award is just a bonus for a job well done. It is an ego-booster, not an ego-bloater. And awards should not be a reason to up an actor's talent fee.

"I remember, in the early days of the Famas, getting an award was considered *malas* because awardees get fewer and fewer assignments. But when I received my first Famas, I got more assignments. I realized it was because most other awardees used their award as leverage to ask for fatter fees. Which I did not do."

Robert Wagner wants half of 'Angels' profits

From page C8

est in proposals for five TV shows that Spelling-Goldberg Productions pitched to ABC for the 1974-1975 season, the suit said.

One of those ideas became the series, "Charlie's Angels," about a mysterious millionaire who ran a private detective agency staffed by three beautiful former police officers. The show originally starred Farrah Fawcett, Kate Jackson and Jaclyn Smith and ran from 1976 to 1981.

In his lawsuit, Wagner said Sony, which has since assumed all rights to the series from Spelling's production company, has refused to pay him his share of the profits from the 2000 film "Charlie's Angels" and its 2003 sequel "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle."

Both films starred Drew Barrymore, Lucy Liu and Cameron Diaz.

The first film generated more than $125 million at US box office, and the sequel, which opened in late June, has grossed more than $67 million in the United States.

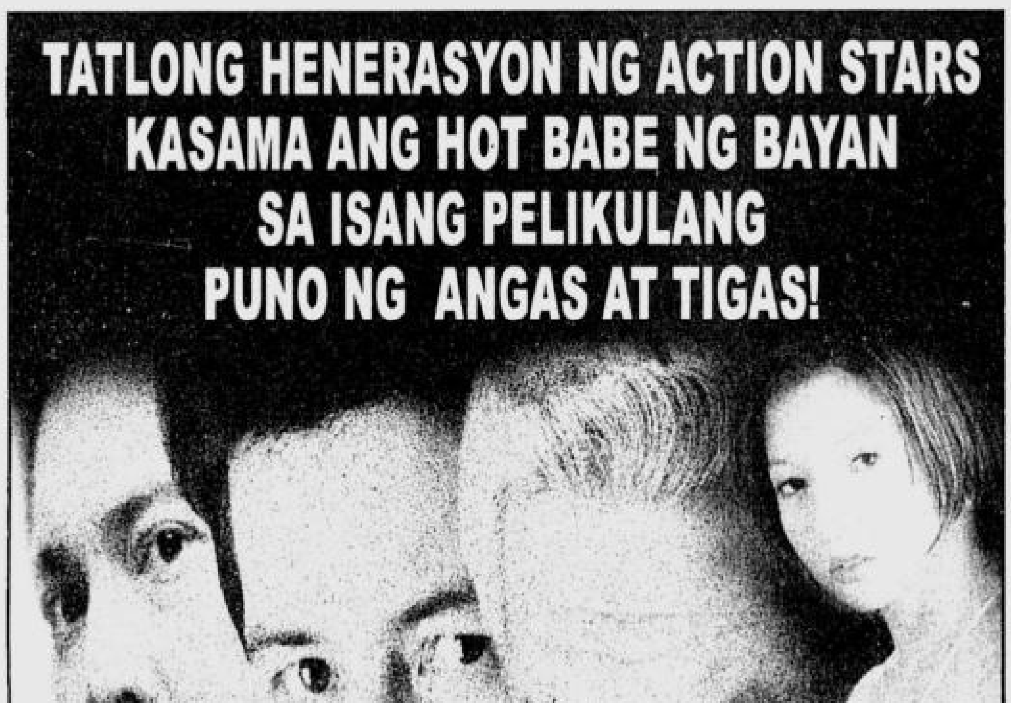
The lawsuit asks the court to require Sony to include profits from the films in calculating Wagner's share of net profits for the TV series, and to turn over all information and financial records regarding the making of the movies.

"This has to do with whether or not his entitlement to a share in the television series extends to the movie," Wagner's lawyer, Samuel Pryor, told Reuters.

Officials from Columbia Pictures, the Sony studio that distributed the "Charlie's Angels" films, could not immediately be reached for comment.

Sony Pictures Entertainment is a unit of Japanese electronics giant Sony Corp.

Reuters


TATLONG HENERASYON NG ACTION STARS
KASAMA ANG HOT BABE NG BAYAN
SA ISANG PELIKULANG
PUNO NG ANGAS AT TIGAS!

ACE VERGEL
VICTOR NERI
MIKEY ARROYO
MAUI TAYLOR
and
EDDIE GARCIA

Masamang Ugat

Introducing: GWEN GARCI

DIRECTED BY WILFREDO MILAN DGPI

VIVA

OPENS JULY 16

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

CHARLIE'S ANGELS: FULL THROTTLE PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40, 10:00	TERMINATOR: RISE OF THE MACHINES PG13 11:30,2:00,4:30,7:00,9:30	PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE - GP 11:30, 1:20, 3:10 TERMINATOR 3 - PG13 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
TERMINATOR: RISE OF THE MACHINES PG13 1:00,3:30,6:00,8:30	THE HUNTED R13 11:50,1:50,3:50, 5:50,7:50,9:50	TERMINATOR: RISE OF THE MACHINES PG13 12:30,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:30

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

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CINEMA 1
TERMINATOR 3
10:50, 1:00, 3:15,
5:30, 7:45, 10:00
PG13

CINEMA 2
TERMINATOR 3
11:50 , 2:00 , 4:15 ,
6:30 , 8:45
PG13

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JULY 25 2003 "JOURNEY" (DESSA / RANNIE RAYMUNDO) 8:30PM
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6TH "CYBORG WAR" DAY!
MTRCB PG-13
PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED Some scenes may be inappropriate for children under age 13

SCHWARZENEGGER
TERMINATOR 3
RISE OF THE MACHINES

Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

AYALA CINEMAS
NOW SHOWING AT ArtFilm
DARING AWARD-WINNING, EXTRAORDINARY

WINNER!
Palme d'Or & Best Actress - Cannes Film Festival
Best Foreign Language Film - Independent Spirit Awards
Best Cinematic Breakthrough (Bjork) - Online Film Critics Society Awards
Best European Feature & Best Actress - European Film Awards

Bjork Catherine Deneuve David Morse

Dancer in the Dark

In a world of shadows, she found the light of life.

Set in rural America in 1964, an immigrant, single mother who works at a factory takes refuge in song & dance, while her world steadily loses light

"This is a film like no other this year, and for that alone you should see it."
-- Peter Brunette, FILM.COM

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
NOKIA
Solar FILMS INC.

THEATER
MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY: LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	UNFAITHFUL CUNCUBINE/KANA 2
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	TERMINATOR 3
B	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HULK
CINEMA-2	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
CINEMA-3	BIGLANG LIKO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	28 DAYS LATER
CINEMA-6	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
CINEMA-7	HOT SPOT
CINEMA-8	HINOG SA PILIT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	CHARLIES ANGLES 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-12	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-14	THE HUNTED
CINEMA-15	DUMB & DUMBERER
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
CINEMA 2	THE EYE
CINEMA 3	A MAN APART
CINEMA 4	[illegible]
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELOS

ENTERTAINMENT

Robert Wagner wants half of 'Angels' profits

LOS ANGELES—Actor Robert Wagner has sued Sony Pictures Entertainment claiming he is entitled to half the profits from the two "Charlie's Angels" movies for his role in developing the 1970s television series on which the films were based.

Wagner and his late wife, actress Natalie Wood, became financially linked to ABC's original "Charlie's Angels" series when they agreed to star in a 1974 TV movie called "Love Song" for producers Aaron Spelling and Leonard Goldberg, according to the lawsuit, filed on Tuesday.

Their contract for "Love Song," later retitled "The Affair," gave the actors part inter-

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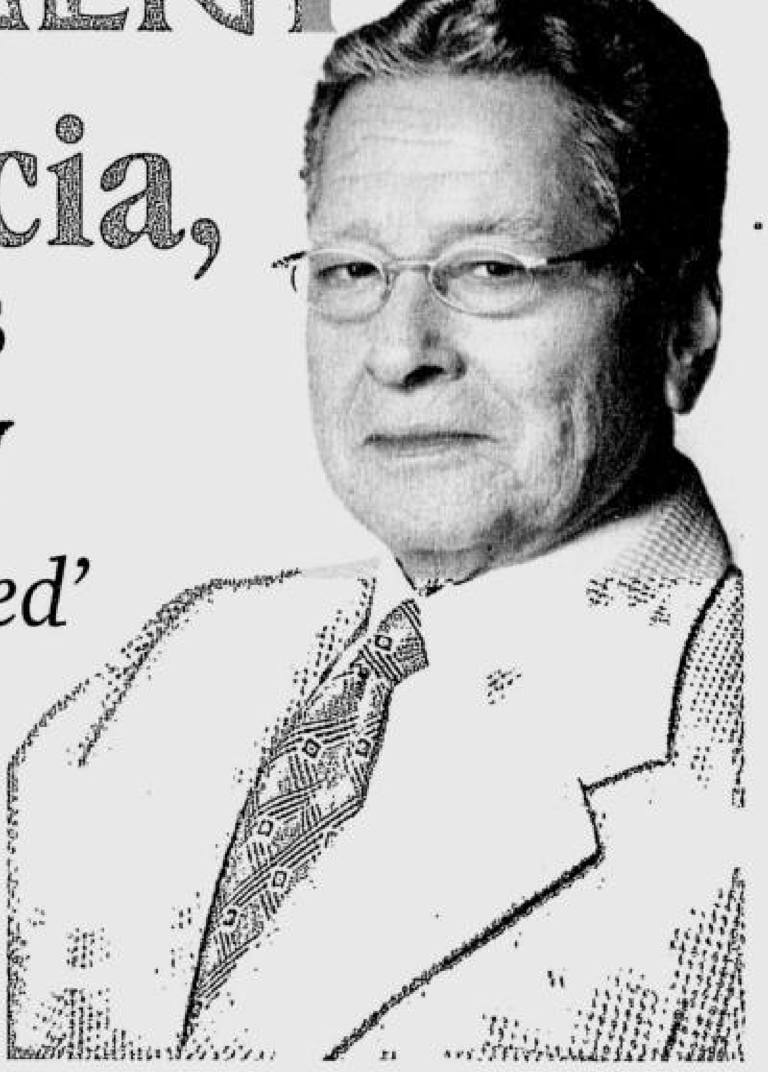
Eddie Garcia, 84, ponders his mortality

'I want to be cremated'

By Ansel Beluso
Contributor



A SIMPLE man, Garcia says he wants no eulogies

IN VIVA Films, "Masamang Ugat," directed by Willie Milan, Eddie Garcia more than stood his ground against his much younger co-stars Ace Vergel, Victor Neri and Mikey Arroyo. This led the reporters surrounding him during the press conference for the movie to speculate on Eddie's real age.

Eddie himself readily admitted that he is now 84 years old! No, his bones are not yet creaking. His eyes are still clear and alert. His skin is far from the delicate and waxy film that covers the flesh of most men his age. And his stride is still strong and purposeful as ever.

Which made us wonder if he spends more and more time now thinking about his mortality. "Yes," said the normally tight-lipped actor-director, loosening up. "One of these days, I'm going to go. I already paid for the services. I want to be cremated."

Then, he let us in on a secret. "But, you know, when I go, you won't even know it. Because I want my remains to go straight to the crematorium. No eulogies. No obituaries. No necrological service. Then, when you start to ask, 'Where's Eddie?,' someone will just tell you, 'Oh, you didn't know? He's long dead!'"

We did point out to Eddie that his wish could not possibly be granted because, most certainly, many will insist that they be given the opportunity to shower him with endless tributes, given the number of people whose lives he has touched and his impressive body of work in the more than half a century of service in the industry to which he has dedicated his entire life.

Uncomplicated

But Eddie wasn't deterred. "In my last will and testament, I am leaving very strict instructions to my family not to give in to any requests of that sort. If they will, I have already told them that I'll come back to haunt them."

Then, the quintessential villain of Philippine movies let out his signature laugh. But, despite his macabre sense of humor, we somehow knew that he was dead serious—pun intended.

Because Eddie is like that. He dislikes people making a fuss over him. He doesn't want to be a bother to anyone. Like, when we asked about whether he has lots of friends in and out of the business—people to whom he can unload his deepest secrets, *amigos* he can run to when he has problems—his reply was, "In this business, if you have secrets, you better keep them to yourself. And if you truly love your friends, why will you run to them with your problems?"

Also, Eddie is such a simple, uncomplicated person. He talks straight. He deals straight. He lives straight. He's not one to decorate his words with pretentious profundities or to pump himself up with the hot air of self-importance. We asked him, "If your name were a word, what would it mean?" and his quick reply was: "Simple. I'm a simple man that everybody can relate to."

Eddie belongs to a breed that is fast becoming rarer and rarer these days. When he casually mentioned that his first directorial assignment was "Karugtong ng Kahapon" starring Rita Gomez, Marlene Dauden, Ric Rodrigo and Mario Montenegro, we immediately noted that all of them have long departed except for Marlene, who is, just the same, no longer active. And of his contemporaries in the enchanting days of Sampaguita Studios, only he and the comedy

EDDIE/C8

Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski

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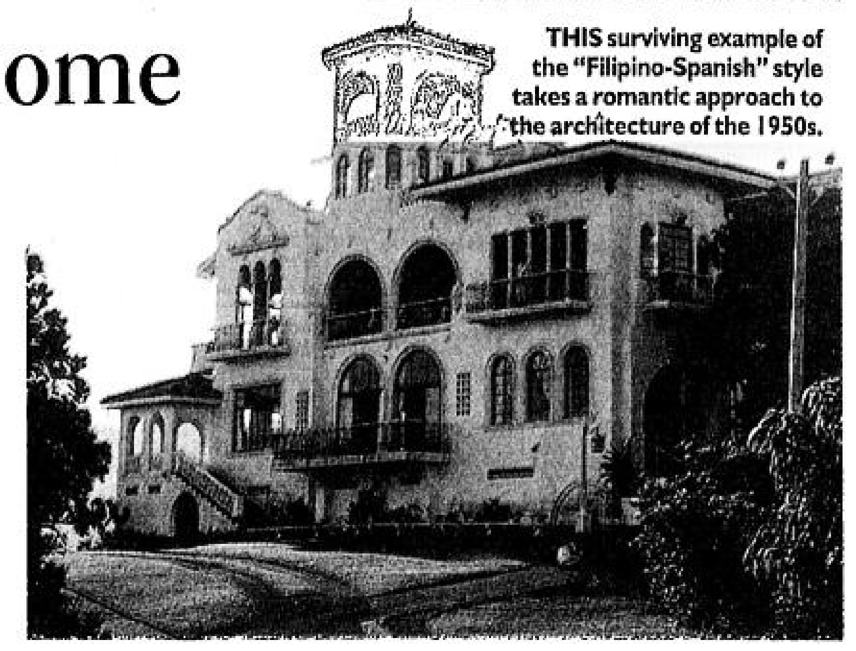
Pride of place for my childhood home

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

A mysterious house on a hill in Cebu triggers pride and good memories in people who have not even lived in the city



THIS surviving example of the "Filipino-Spanish" style takes a romantic approach to the architecture of the 1950s.

IN CEBU City, there is a house on a hill that is impossible to hide from anyone because it sticks out so much due to its location.

The house stands on a small hill that once stood all alone above the city. Today the little hill is actually lower than the high-rises being constructed near its foot. Development is encroaching on the once prime location.

High-rise developments notwithstanding, the house stands out anyway.

The orchard of bonsai fruit trees (none are over 8 ft tall) on the slope of the hill forms a leafy pedestal for the house built in that great postwar 1950s "Spanish" style which is very romantic and Filipino, not anywhere near anything built in Spain at all. The house has the quality of a fantasy.

The house is a three-story structure with a two-story lookout tower rising out of its center. It is an architectural confection of neo-Pinoy/Spanish arches, open verandahs, little balconies under tile-trimmed roofs, and voluptuous open stairways which wind around the exterior façade.

The interior of the house picks up its design cues from tropical architecture. Each bedroom has large windows flanking glass doors that open to a small private balcony.

Strong light and fresh air constantly flow (actually overflow) through all the rooms in the house. Ceilings are extra high. There is absolutely no feeling of enclosure.

Totally transparent

In the Filipino tradition, the house is totally transparent. In the interior, the large living and dining room leads into either a wraparound verandah or to the bedrooms which open out into small balconies cantilevered from the exterior wall.

It is a layering of spaces, from private to public; no single space is completely enclosed from the other in the same way that the spaces in a *bahay na bato* flow into each other.

The long living-dining area crosses the length of the house. In true Filipino fashion, the hardwood floors and paneled walls are polished to mirror-perfection.

The living and dining areas flow into a deep verandah whose arches open to a view of the city up to the harbor, to the airport on Mactan Island, and on those typically clear Cebuano days, to a sweeping vista of the Bohol hills across the sea.

The house commands an unsurpassed view of the city but with the view comes a price: The city's view of the house is equally as unsurpassed. It is a goldfish bowl in full sight from practically any point of the city.

Being such an obvious sight, there is great curiosity about the house and even more about what goes on inside it. And what speculation there is.

It is supposed to be the haunt of transparent, white-robed ethereal beings that float about once the sun comes down and the lights are turned off.

But when more lights than usual are turned on at night, people inquire the following morning who the guests were for dinner the night before.

It is a tourist destination. Strangers would often drive up asking to see the house and its garden.

Someone once told me that he would notice which flowers were in bloom in the garden. To see that, I thought, would need binoculars. I concluded voyeurism.

Can't live it down

There definitely were tribulations about living there, but it was good house for growing up in. I loved it.

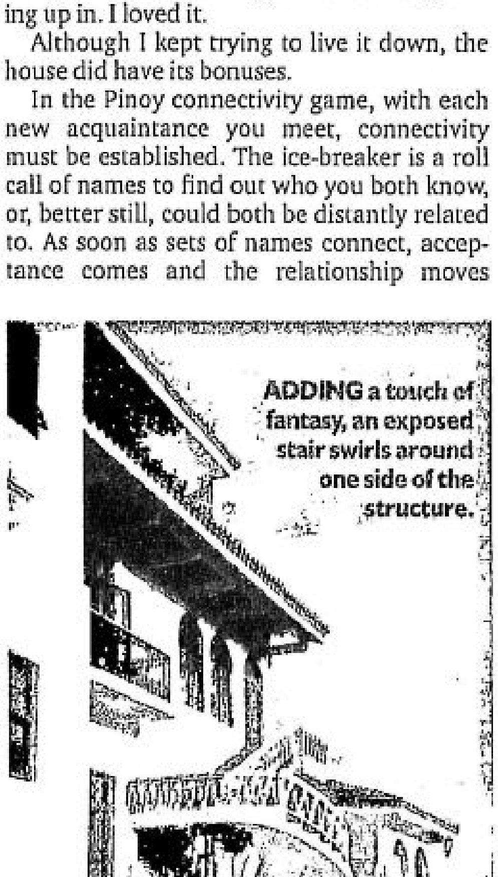
Although I kept trying to live it down, the house did have its bonuses.

In the Pinoy connectivity game, with each new acquaintance you meet, connectivity must be established. The ice-breaker is a roll call of names to find out who you both know, or, better still, could both be distantly related to. As soon as sets of names connect, acceptance comes and the relationship moves many notches above acquaintance level.

My connectivity game worked differently. I was not like my friends who tied into people or common relations. My connectivity factor was to a place.

Now I realize that my childhood house came with life lessons. From hanging around

PRIDE/ D2



ADDING a touch of fantasy, an exposed stair swirls around one side of the structure.

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Ang mga Official Receipts lang na na-issue mula May 15, 2003 ang qualified sa promo. Only entries sent for the day will qualify for the Daily Draw. However, ang mga non-winning entries sa Daily Draws ay isasali sa Monthly and Anniversary draws.

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Images of hanging thoughts

By Constantino C. Tejero

AN INTERESTING exhibit is Jayson Oliveria's third solo show "New Works," 21 untitled pieces in oil on paper, until July 16 in The Drawing Room, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City.

Limned on flat color planes of black, gray, greenish-beige, olive-green, are illustrative images with a few bordering on the abstract.

Blotches of white on a black pictorial frame, for instance, form silhouettes of horse, pig, rabbit, cat, fish, seal. Then there's Durer's famous woodcut image of two hands clasped in prayer, now rendered in gray with black highlight and shadow on an olive-green background.

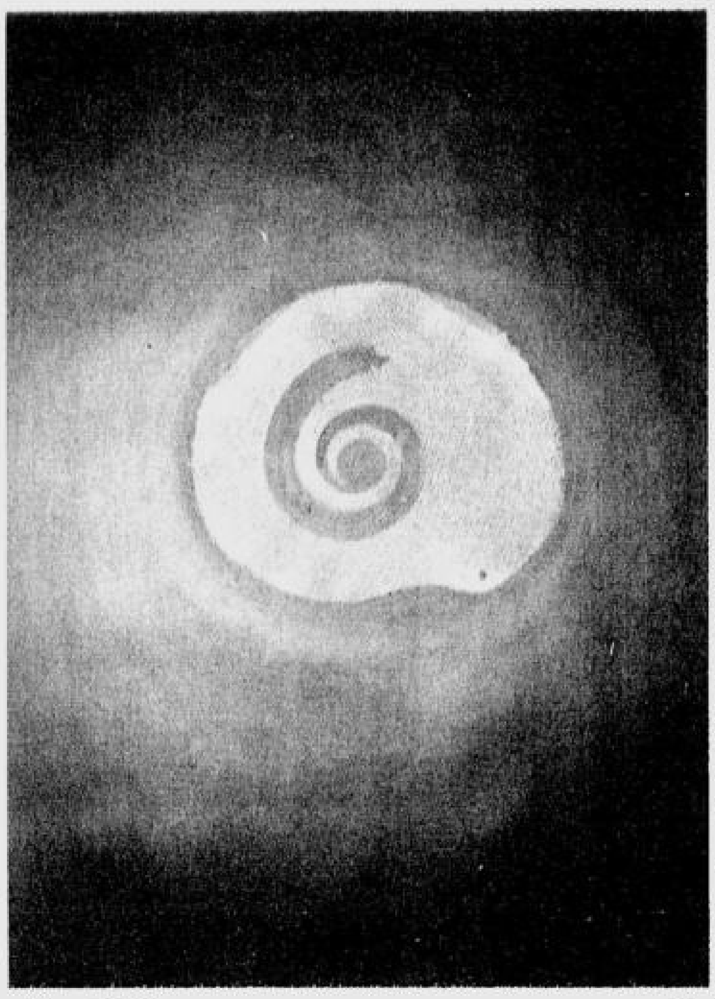
The rest is a catalog of banal objects: the spiral of a snail; two feeding-bottle nipples; a scattering of Japanese slippers; white rabbit with orange eye and spots of maroon, ochre and old rose; string of beads; an anthurium bract or leaf; black outline of a ladder or a film strip; spiraling garden hose; black origami images of kite, duck, airplane, skull, star, whale, and a black rose at the center, on a greenish-gray plane; a grayish lump that could be a ball of yarn, with the inscription *Meow*.

Some pieces show mostly geometric shapes and patterns: a cluster of circle, square, triangle and oval; intersecting red lines forming a polygon subdivided into three trapeziums; a map-like form with the inscription *Joy*; black square on beige rectangle stamped with a beige silhouette of a boy's profile diagrammed by a grid which forms olive-green squares; black and slate-green planes with a row of maroon circles, and ochre and slate-green dripping forms looking like paramecia; beige plane with a row of ovoids in black, white, red, yellow, orange, brown and slate-blue.

Mysterious vignettes

One piece is crammed with beige intersecting routes forming triangles of rotundas, with gray directional arrows and a black silhouette of a pedestrian crossing a street.

A minimalist yet artful piece is composed of a beige plane outlined in black and drawn with a black square on the lower left corner and a dog-ear at upper right, revealing a black triangle. The canvas looks like a page being flipped.



NO. 3

NO. 12

A mystifying piece shows an orange silhouette of what could be the devil's head with a tail, or a flower on a stem. An inscription reads: "*Illegitimi non carborundum.*"

But the images are not what they seem. The artist reveals that the ball of yarn, for instance, conceals a kitten.

The string of beads is actually a row of tennis balls. The anthurium leaf is the human brain. Mystically, the devil's head is a Roman coin engraved with the image of the emperor, tossed into the air.

These vignettes then are just studies in form and perspective—only in structure, and not even in chromatics, because the colors themselves are quite flat and largely monochromatic.

The artist confirms these are more like studies, products of whatever came to his mind at the moment. "They're just hanging thoughts. There's no definite course—connect-connect *lang*."

His process is often spontaneous. "*Kalat ako mag*-work, *e*."

Paradoxical artist

He reveals that when he thinks of doing a piece, just staring at the wall would take him a week. But once he gets started, he could finish an 8' x 8' piece in oil on canvas in two days.

He is also into collage in mixed media and sculptural pieces of found objects. Otherwise, his medium is strictly oil.

He says he is not satisfied with acrylic ("*Madaling mag-dry, nagbabago ang kulay kung matuyo—'yan ang sakit n'ya—hindi ko ma*-get") and watercolor ("No way").

A University of the Philippines fine arts graduate, Oliveria says that, of the works of Filipino artists, his favorite is that of his *kababata* Kreskin Sugay ("pure painting"). Of foreign artists he really likes, he can hardly come up with a name aside from Pollock, but even then he is hesitant ("*malamang... siguro... puwede*").

Paradoxically, an art movement that appeals to him is Pop Art. "Of course. *Naabutan natin ang hangin...*"

Which is apparent in this exhibit, whose images border on Pop, though not quite. At the moment, this young artist is still unclassifiable.

"PARIS Rooftops Series # 1" by Jon Cuyson

Cuyson at West Gallery

VISUAL ARTS

WEST Gallery will exhibit Jon Cuyson's photographs and paintings inspired by his trip to Paris last year. It will be held July 17-29 at 3/L Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati.

DENNIS Mallares Gonzales exhibits his first solo show at Kulay Diwa Art Galleries until Aug. 13. Kulay Diwa is at 25 Lopez Ave., Lopez Village, Sucat, Parañaque.

"SAGADA Traditions" is ongoing at The Sanctuary Gallery of Maryknoll, Campo Sioco, Baguio City, until Sept. 7. The show features recent photos of a *begnas* ceremony by Tommy Hafalla and stoneware by Lope Bosaing.

THE SATURDAY Group Gallery will present "Likhang Kulay" on July 26-Aug. 17 on the 2/F Ali Mall, Cubao, QC. The artists are Orpha Abrigo, Marie Aganon, Isabelita Aganon, Marlyn Aquino, Serena Borras, Stephanie Baluyot, Lorenza Calpotura, Lea Choa, Ginny Cruz, Ela Gutierrez, Margie Garcia, Marlene Ong, Pilar Navarro, Luzviminda Santillan, Jocelyn Santos, Lilian Siy, Jenny Yao and Mildred Varela.

UST forum tackles National Artists controversy

THE CENTER for Creative Writing and Studies of the University of Santo Tomas will formally open its annual Associate Lecture Series with a lecture on "Literature vs Journalism: The Case of Alejandro Roces and the 2003 National Artist Awards" on July 16, 1 p.m., at the Arts and Letters audio-visual room, St. Raymund's (AB-Commerce) Bldg., UST.

The forum will focus on the controversy surrounding the selection and announcement of the new batch of National Artists.

The lecturer is writer-teacher Lito B. Zulueta, who is coordinator of the media studies program of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters, secretary of the Committee on Literary Arts of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and arts and culture subsection editor of the INQUIRER.

The reactors are poet-essayist-musician Lourd de Veyra and historian-playwright Jose Victor Torres.

The lecture-forum is open to the public. Call Alma Manguilin at 731-3101 local 8281.

NCCA holds concerts for friendship month

THE NATIONAL Commission for Culture and the Arts celebrates Fil-American Friendship month with performances on the theme "Peace through Cultural Performances" at the VPY Clamshell 1 in Intramuros.

The celebration kicks off on July 18 at 5 p.m. with a parade around Intramuros by the Philippine Marine Drum and Bugle Team, followed by a night of a cappella music by the A.K.A. Fellas.

To perform are Douglas Nieras' Powerdance (July 19); Musikito and the Quezon City Performing Arts Foundation (July 20); Philippine Folk Dance Troupe (July 21); The Company (July 22); Philippine Ballet Theater (July 23); Shirley Halili-Cruz School of Ballet (July 24); Department of Tourism website launching (July 25); Moonstar 88 (July 26); UST Symphony Orchestra and nostalgic music (July 27); and KontraGapi (July 28).

Call 527-2209 local 507-509.

Pride of place . . .

From page D1

when it was being built, I got a feel of what it was like to construct spaces. I got to like the smell of sawdust, of concrete, and of the heady pungency of varnish.

Accepting my identification with a house as my own special reality could have contributed to making me relate to places easily, laying the foundation of a career that is focused on keeping places—special or ordinary ones—from disappearing into the past.

My childhood house came with life lessons, but then that's my story and something for me to be thankful for.

Keeping places alive is what pride of place is all about. Pride of place is where a lot of things begin. It roots us to our individual heritage. It roots us to our nation. It helps us to become the Filipinos that we keep struggling to be but somehow keep failing to reach.

After a decade of writing architecture and heritage columns, the time has arrived to usher in a new season by renaming this column "Pride of Place," which is what it has really always been all about.

We Filipinos have been creating such exceptional places throughout our long history. It is such a shame that not too many of us have learned to really feel proud about them, even less to care for them so that we can pass these places on to our next generation. Time is running out.

With a deep sense of Pride of Place, we will have all the motivation we need to do just that.

E-mail the author at afvillalon@hotmail.com

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Taytay 665-2110 | Libertad 834-2788 to 90 | Katipunan 928-3119 | Mercedes, Pasig 747-9272 | EDSA-Taft 833-6560 | Zabarte 961-4600 | Magallanes 852-8090

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2942, Series of 2003

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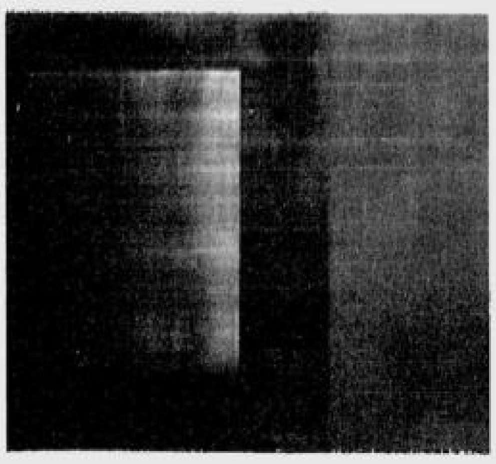

"WINDOW," by Lito Carating

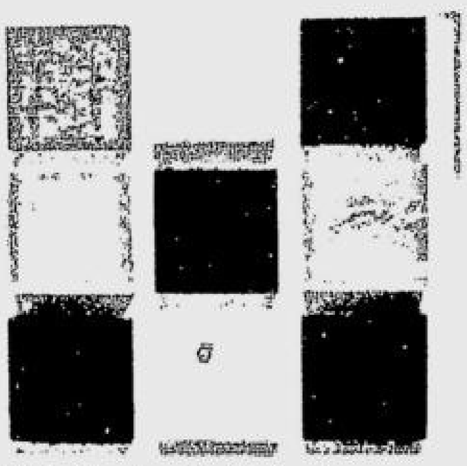
Carating and Lindslee at Donada, Cuyson at West

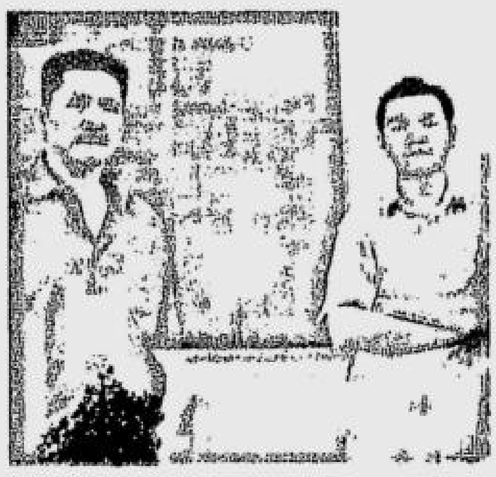
VISUAL ARTS

DONADA Art Gallery presents "Carating-Lindslee," by Norberto Carating and Lindsay Lee. It will be held July 19-Aug. 10 at 2618 RL Building, Donada St. cor. P. Ocampo St., Malate, Manila.

KULAY DIWA Art Galleries features a group exhibit titled "Urbanisasyon" in the Black and Red Galleries until Aug. 13. Displayed are the works of Michael Adrao, Joel Amores, Vincent Balandra, Mark Baretto, Renato Barja Jr., Robert Besana, Lawrence Borsoto, Jonathan Castro, Leslie de Chavez, Daniel Coquilla, Marc Cosico, Mideo Cruz, Noni Cruzado, Eugene Cubillo III, Noel Soler Cuizon, Kiko Escora, Carlo Gabuco, Emmanuel Garibay, Carlo Gernale, Michael Lagos, Kurt Lluch, Joseph Lofranco, Portia Mariquina, Lea Padilla, Bernard Pena, Sam Penaso, Leslie de los Reyes, Ikoy Ricio, Raoul Rodriguez, Don Salubayba, Roel Salvatierra, CJ Tanedo, Clairelynn Uy, Christopher Zamora and Eric Zamuco.

ARNOLD Esguerra will hold a Chinese painting workshop at Lopez Museum, 9 a.m.-12 noon, on July 19 and 26 and Aug. 2 and 9. Lopez Museum is at G/F Benpres Building, Exchange Road, Pasig City. Call 631-2417.


"RAIN of Emotions" by Lindsay Lee


CARATING and Lindslee

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- ☑ Wash your hands regularly.
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FOR
ENERGY

LifeStyle

"TIPONG Pinoy" host Janelle So

Now airing on Studio 23, 'Tipong Pinoy' is a fast-paced show that brings the country's cultural heritage to young viewers

Arts and culture get air time

Text by James P. Ong
Photos by Rudy Esperas

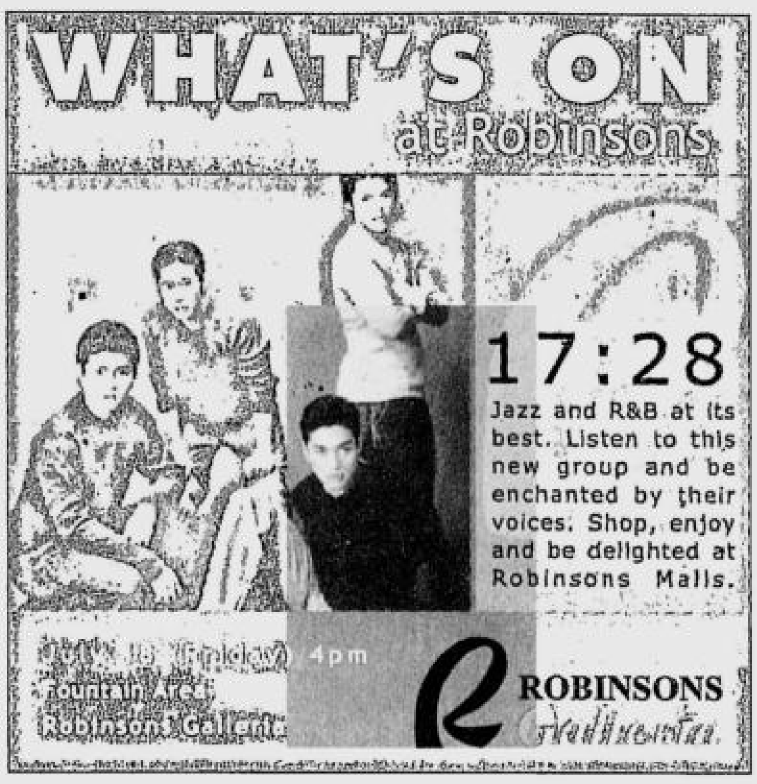
IT'S a recurring theme: older people complaining about the young generation's lack of interest in the country's arts and culture.

It's a recurring effort: translating art- and culture-related material into a format and language that would appeal to the younger set.

"Our mission is to bring culture and arts to the public. This time, we are doing it via television," says Ma. Fina Yonzon, executive director of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

The government agency is the producer of "Tipong Pinoy," a 30-minute magazine show which started airing on Studio 23 last Saturday.

ARTS/ E3



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17:28

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NOVALICHES ☎ 936.9757	ICE KENDI BEAT BOX	BLAKDYAK ALL FRIDAY'S OF JULY
BIÑAN ☎ (049)511.7268	MIXED-UP MISSMO	NO ENTRANCE FEE
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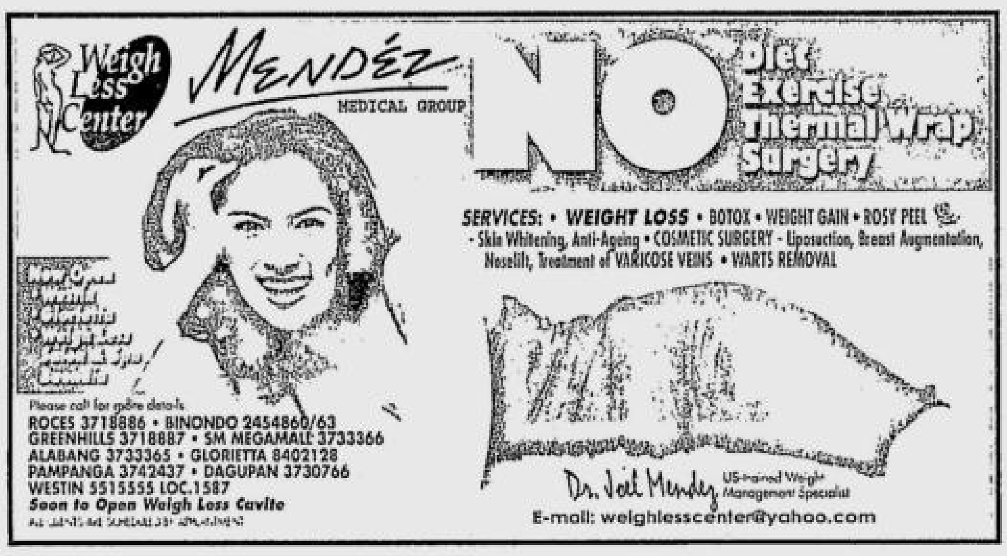
TOMAS MORATO ☎ 371.1473	VERSE 2	JULY 29-SABOR LATINO

JULY 14 MONDAY 422-8877



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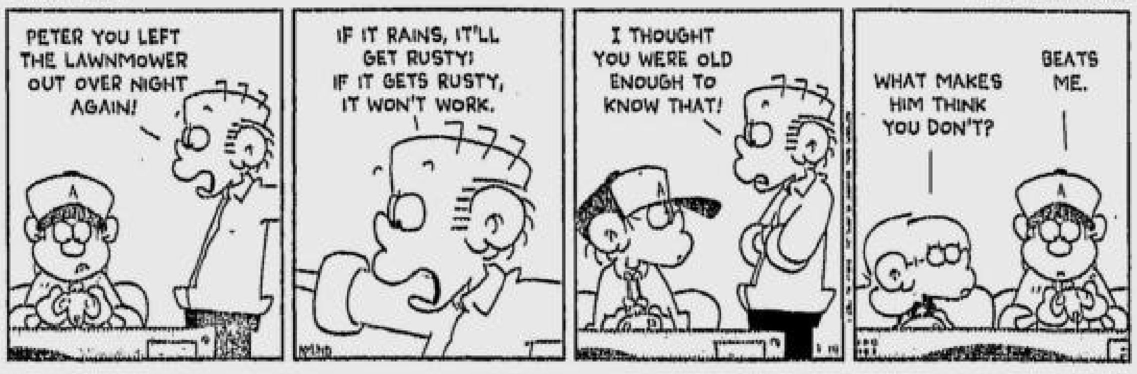
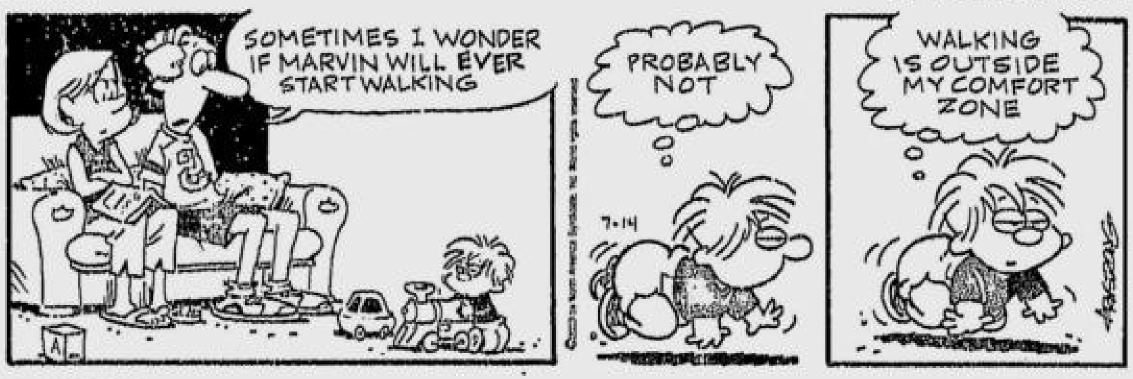
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


PETER YOU LEFT THE LAWNMOWER OUT OVER NIGHT AGAIN!
IF IT RAINS, IT'LL GET RUSTY! IF IT GETS RUSTY, IT WON'T WORK.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT!
WHAT MAKES HIM THINK YOU DON'T?
BEATS ME.

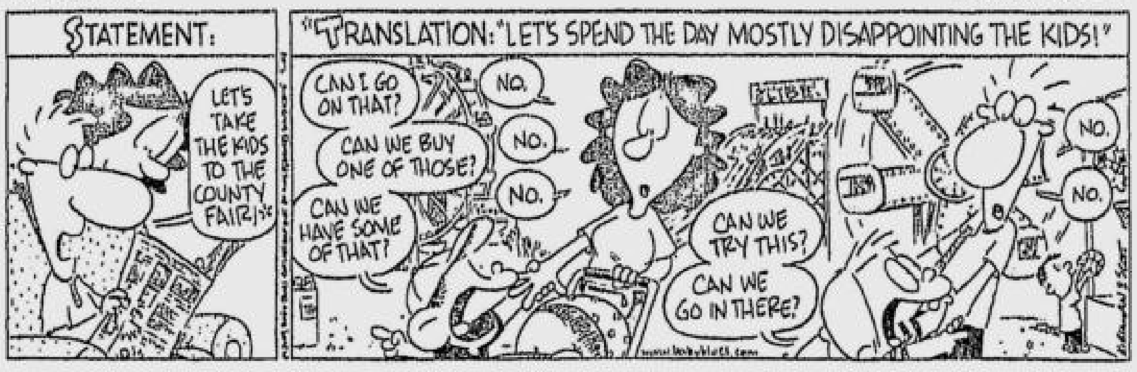
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


SOMETIMES I WONDER IF MARVIN WILL EVER START WALKING
PROBABLY NOT
7-14
WALKING IS OUTSIDE MY COMFORT ZONE

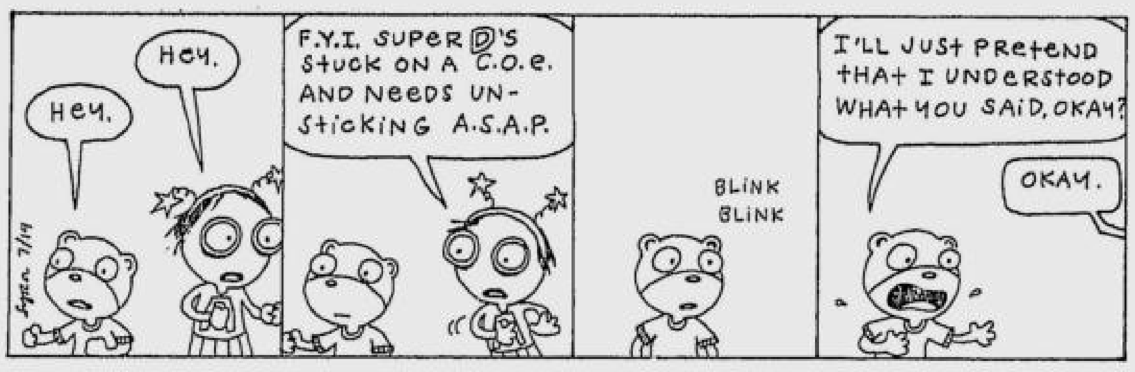
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


STATEMENT:
LET'S TAKE THE KIDS TO THE COUNTY FAIR!
"TRANSLATION: "LET'S SPEND THE DAY MOSTLY DISAPPOINTING THE KIDS!"
CAN I GO ON THAT?
NO.
CAN WE BUY ONE OF THOSE?
NO.
CAN WE HAVE SOME OF THAT?
NO.
CAN WE TRY THIS?
NO.
CAN WE GO IN THERE?
NO.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey.
Hey.
F.Y.I. SUPER D'S STUCK ON A C.O.E. AND NEEDS UN-STICKING A.S.A.P.
BLINK BLINK
I'LL JUST PRETEND THAT I UNDERSTOOD WHAT YOU SAID, OKAY?
OKAY.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have an unassuming charm that seduces everyone. You easily win the hearts of others. You are fascinating and convincing because you are genuine (plus you have interesting stories to tell). You want to enlighten people. This year could be one of the most powerful years of your life. Go after what you want!

Birthdate of: Woody Guthrie, singer; Gerald Ford, 38th US president; Roosevelt "Rosy" Grier, football player/actor/needlework expert.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Emotional contact with friends is important for you today. You have something personal to say to someone. And this is a good day to say it.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Start this week off by putting your best foot forward. You will be noticed more than usual today. Expect to talk to your boss or someone important.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 20): You crave excitement right now! You want to meet new friends or contact people from other cultures. What you really want to do is travel someplace adventurous and stimulating.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might feel overly possessive about a particular item or even a person today. It could be that something holds familiar and precious memories for you.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Be tactful when talking to members of the public today. Ditto for talking to partners. It's easy for you to suddenly feel emotionally involved, which makes you lose your perspective.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You are willing to forgo your own needs and pleasures in favor of somebody else's today. You're not being a martyr. You simply see a logical opportunity to serve or help someone.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a wonderful day for flirtations and saucy, titillating exchanges. A harmless crush (or possibly something deeper) could develop.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Make sure you take care of matters at home before you launch out into the big, wide world today. Discussions with parents and family members are important.

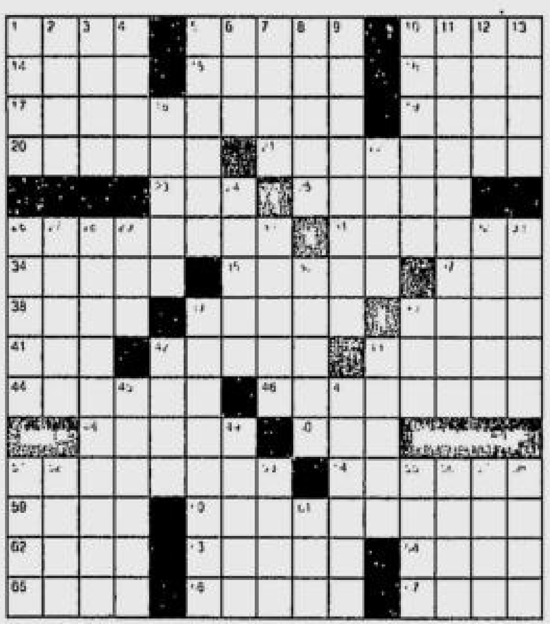
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a great day to start your week. You feel upbeat, fun-loving, breezy and cavalier. Just the way you like to be. You kid, you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Talk to partners or members of the public about money matters today. You might think of a way to boost your earnings, or at least find a bargain.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): With the Moon in your sign today, it's a wonderful way to start the week. It's as if the universe owes you a favor. Ask for anything that you want a "yes" answer to.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Because you would rather play than work right now, at least try to get more physical exercise. This will help you to focus your energy and keep you on track.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Robert Zimmerman
San Diego, CA

7/14/03

ACROSS
1 ___ Benedict
5 Pitfall
10 Is in debt
14 Pate de ___ gras
15 "Tosca" or "Turandot," e.g.
16 Take the train
17 Counterfeit
19 Pond growth
20 Sculptor's creation
21 Sword of ___
23 Lawyer's deg.
25 Virile
26 Romantically naive
31 Sharper
34 Zodiac's first sign
35 Scruffs
37 Levin or Gershwin
38 British undershirt
39 More widespread
40 Pleased
41 German pronoun
42 Wit
43 Light wood
44 "Sophie's Choice" author
46 Boss
48 Sots
50 ___ Paulo, Brazil
51 Car wrecks
54 Volkswagen model
59 Impulsive
60 Shabby
62 Yearn
63 While broadcasting
64 Middling
65 Old Tunisian rulers
66 Physicist Enrico
67 Ferber or Buchanan

DOWN
1 Studio apts.
2 Joint woe
3 Actress Lollobrigida
4 Transmitted
5 Unattractive
6 Going public letters
7 Be inclined
8 Yellowish white
9 Powerful blow with the fist
10 Seer
11 Any which way
12 Advantage
13 Salty seven
18 Christmases
22 Change for a five
24 Jeans material
26 Jefferson of the CSA
27 Build
28 Ineffective
29 So far
30 Willem of "Platoon"
32 Wipe out
33 Trooper's gun?
36 Salon settings
39 Exhaust
40 Govt. bookkeepers
42 Call of the goose
43 Become inflated
45 Wealth
47 Ancient Egyptian papers
49 Backbone
51 Fiddler on the beach?
52 Word with rat or human
53 Duel reminder
55 Unhurt
56 Large amount
57 Related
58 Actress Banks
61 Rudyard Kipling hero

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

M	S	S		L	A	M	I	A		A	P	A	C	E
S	T	I	M	U	L	A	N	T		M	A	G	O	T
D	U	D	E	R	A	N	C	H		I	N	A	N	E
O	N	O	N	E	S	T	O	E	S		A	M	F	
S	T	N				A	N	N	C		M	E	L	T
			O	O	H		S	A	Y		A	M	U	R
A	B	A	N	D	O	N	E	E		E	N	N	E	A
L	I	N	E	A	R	E	Q	U	A	T	I	O	N	S
T	O	D	A	Y		R	U	M	I	N	A	N	T	S
O	L	A	N		F	O	E		R	A	N			
N	O	L	O		A	W	N	S				O	P	L
	G	U	T		R	O	T	I	S	S	E	R	I	E
D	I	S	H	Y		L	I	N	E	A	M	E	N	T
O	S	I	E	R		F	A	C	E	D	U	P	T	O
S	T	A	R	S		E	L	E	N	A		E	O	N

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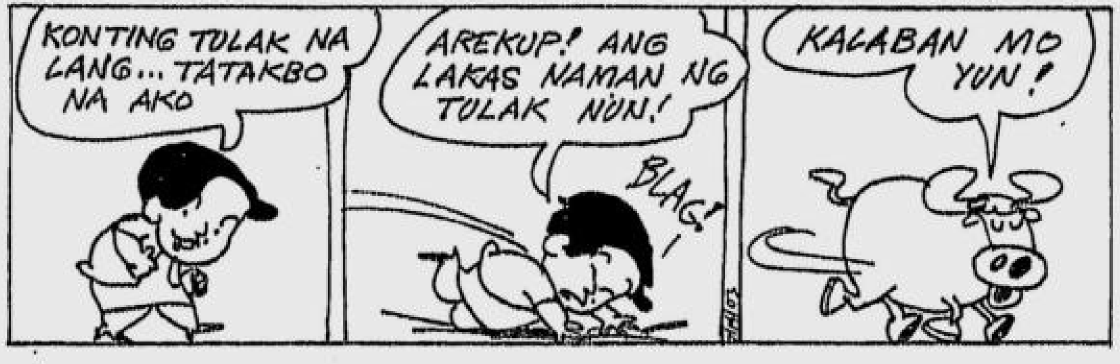
7/14/03

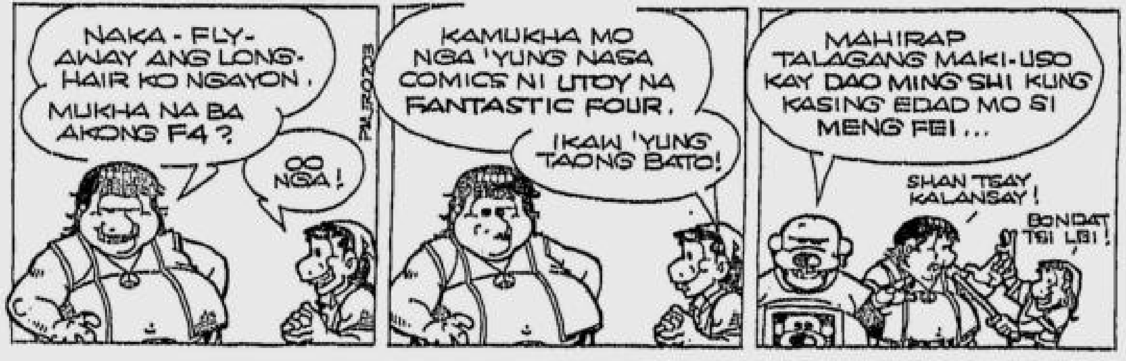
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KONTING TULAK NA LANG... TATAKBO NA AKO
AREKUP! ANG LAKAS NAMAN NG TULAK NUN!
BLAG!
KALABAN MO YUN!

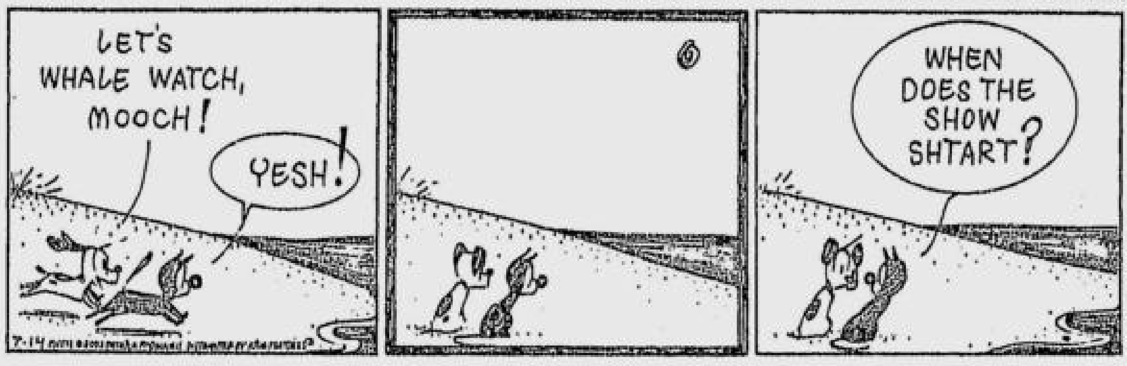
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAKA-FLY-AWAY ANG LONG-HAIR KO NGAYON. MUKHA NA BA AKONG F4?
OO NGA!
KAMUKHA MO NGA 'YUNG NASA COMICS NI UTOY NA FANTASTIC FOUR.
IKAW 'YUNG TAONG BATO!
MAHIRAP TALAGANG MAKI-USO KAY DAO MING SHI KUNG KASING EDAD MO SI MENG FEI...
SHAN TSAY KALANSAY!
BONDAT TSI LBI!

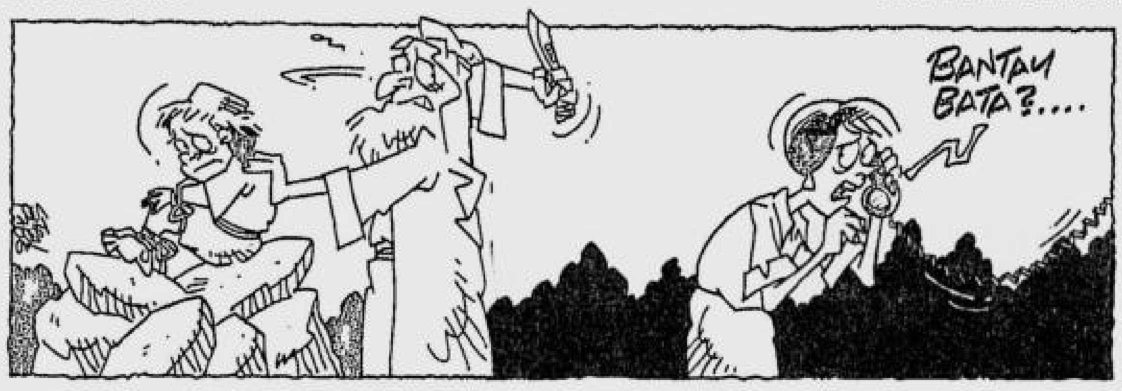
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


LET'S WHALE WATCH, MOOCH!
YESH!
WHEN DOES THE SHOW SHTART?

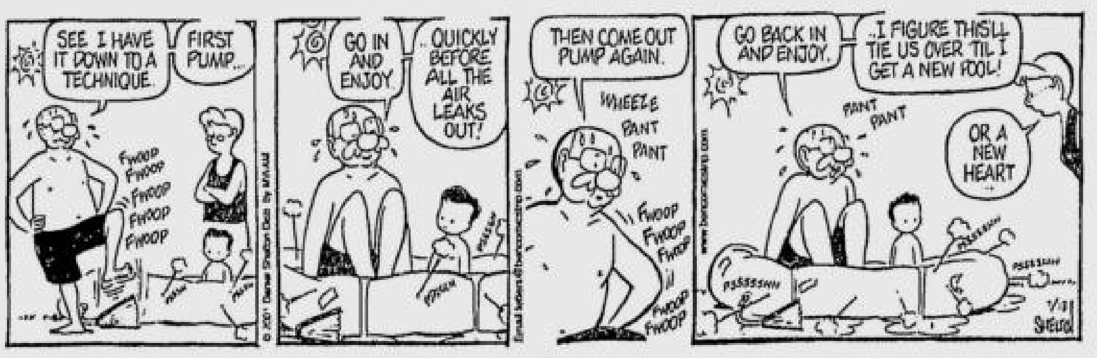
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


BANTAY BATA?....

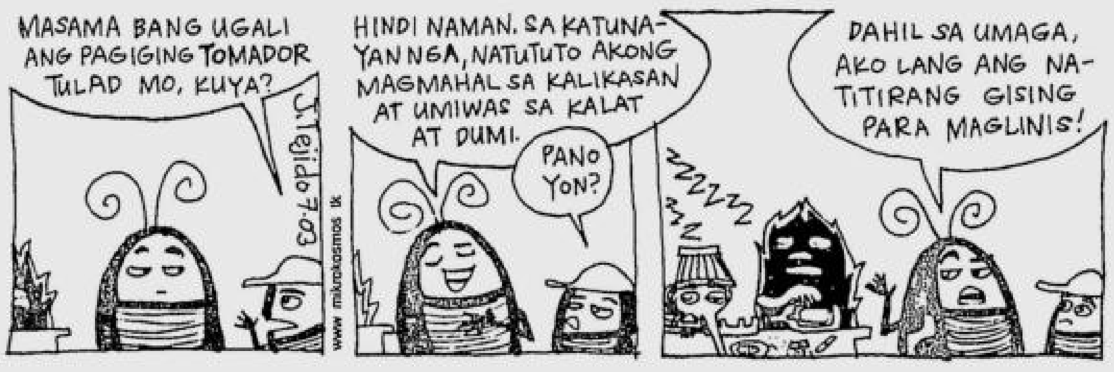
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


SEE I HAVE IT DOWN TO A TECHNIQUE.
FIRST PUMP...
FWOOP FWOOP FWOOP FWOOP FWOOP
GO IN AND ENJOY.
..QUICKLY BEFORE ALL THE AIR LEAKS OUT!
THEN COME OUT PUMP AGAIN.
WHEEZE PANT PANT
FWOOP FWOOP FWOOP FWOOP FWOOP
GO BACK IN AND ENJOY.
..I FIGURE THIS'LL TIE US OVER TIL I GET A NEW POOL!
PANT PANT
OR A NEW HEART
PSSSSHH

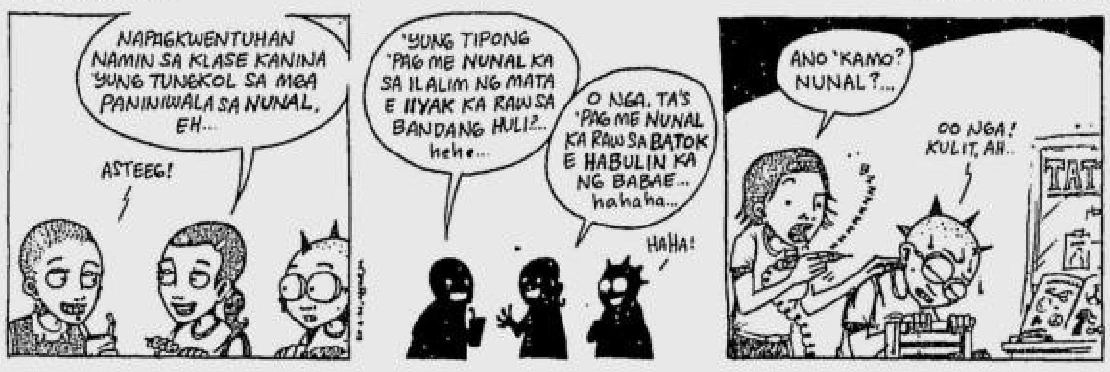
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MASAMA BANG UGALI ANG PAGIGING TOMADOR TULAD MO, KUYA?
HINDI NAMAN. SA KATUNAYAN NGA, NATUTUTO AKONG MAGMAHAL SA KALIKASAN AT UMIWAS SA KALAT AT DUMI.
PANO YON?
ZZZZZ
DAHIL SA UMAGA, AKO LANG ANG NATITIRANG GISING PARA MAGLINIS!

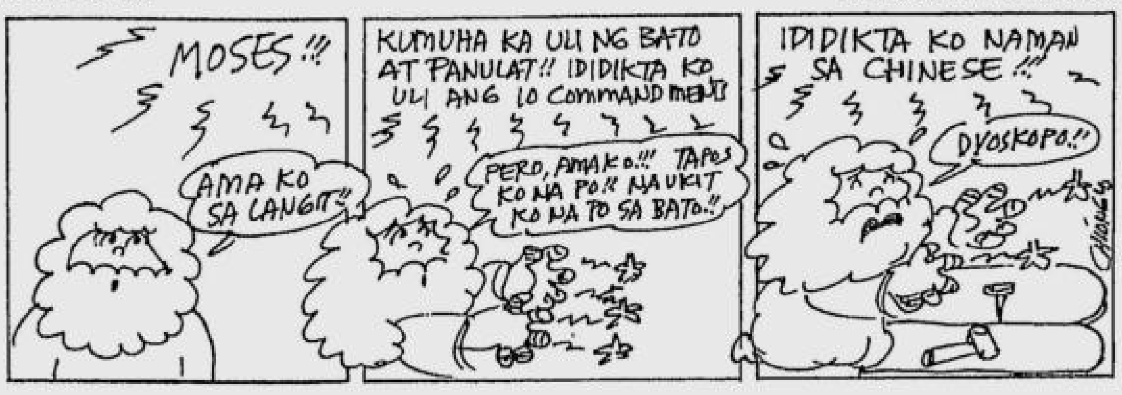
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


NAPAGKWENTUHAN NAMIN SA KLASE KANINA 'YUNG TUNGKOL SA MGA PANINIWALA SA NUNAL, EH...
ASTEEG!
'YUNG TIPONG 'PAG ME NUNAL KA SA ILALIM NG MATA E IIYAK KA RAW SA BANDANG HULI?.. hehe...
O NGA. TA'S 'PAG ME NUNAL KA RAW SA BATOK E HABULIN KA NG BABAE... hahaha...
HAHA!
ANO 'KAMO? NUNAL?...
OO NGA! KULIT, AH..

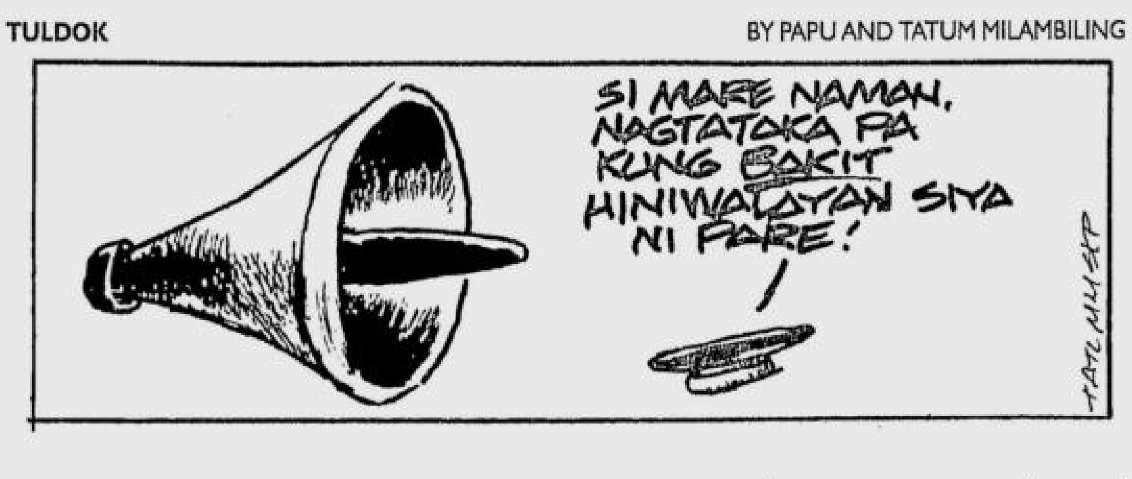
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MOSES!!!
AMA KO SA LANGIT!!
KUMUHA KA ULI NG BATO AT PANULAT!! IDIDIKTA KO ULI ANG 10 COMMANDMENTS
PERO, AMA KO!!! TAPOS KO NA PO!! NAUKIT KO NA PO SA BATO!!
IDIDIKTA KO NAMAN SA CHINESE!!!
DYOSKOPO!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SI MARE NAMAN, NAGTATAKA PA KUNG BAKIT HINIWALAYAN SIYA NI PARE!

STUDIO 23 programming director Leo Katigbak

SUSAN Calo Medina

Arts and culture . . .

ROD Cornejo of NCCA

From page E1

"It's a long time in coming," says Leo Katigbak, programming director of Studio 23, an affiliate of ABS-CBN. "We've been discussing this for three years already."

He points out that, more than a decade ago, ABS-CBN was also responsible for the successful "Tatak Pinoy," hosted by Jim Paredes and Gel Relos, which was a helpful cultural reference for Generation X.

"Tipong Pinoy" will air 12 more episodes on the following Saturday mornings.

Susan Calo Medina, part of the

ARTS/ E4

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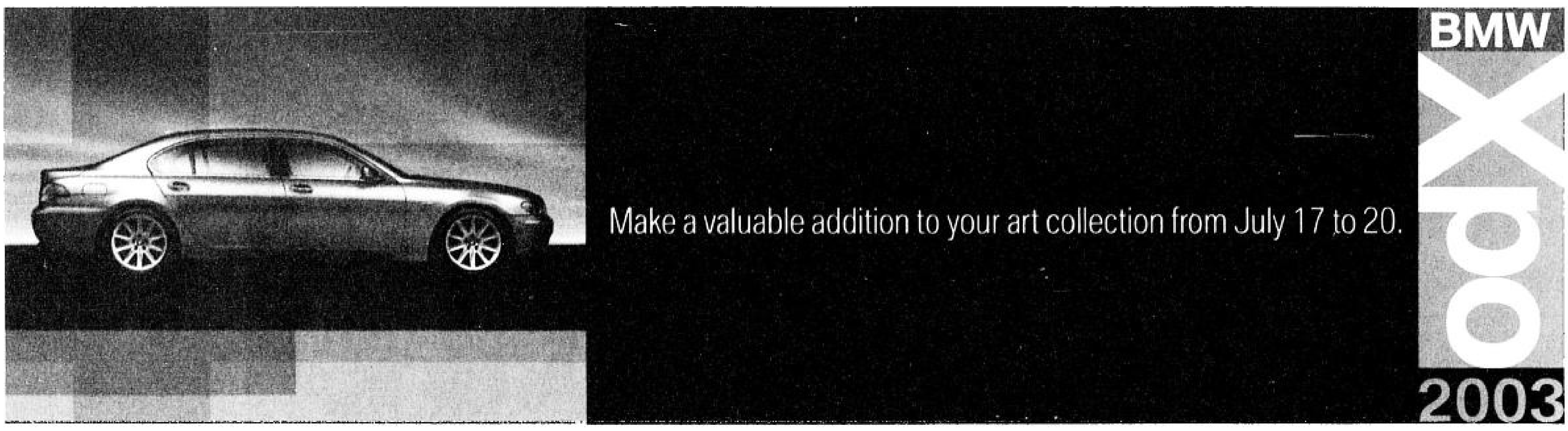

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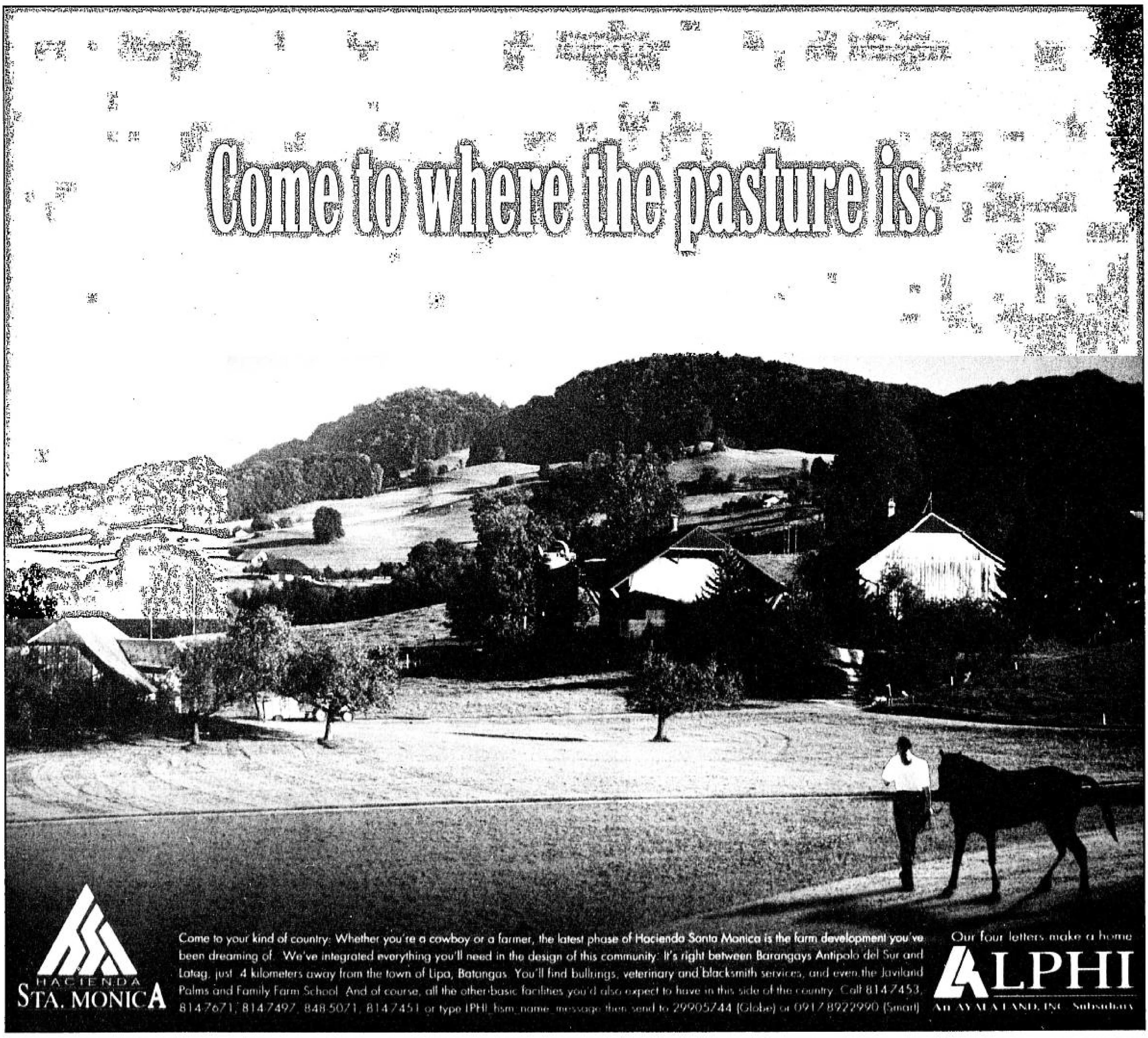

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Arts and culture get air time

From page E3

group that conceptualized the show, assures that "the substance is there, but the treatment is light." Each episode will have one theme, but the pacing will be lightning-fast, to keep the young viewers' rapid channel-switching habit at bay.

There will be features on Philippine music and food, Filipino jewelry, the Unesco World Heritage Sites in the country, and even one on "How to Spot a Pinoy."

"Tipong Pinoy" first aired on GMA-7 three years ago, hosted by Medina and singer Wency Cornejo. "But this time we know we need much younger hosts," she jokes.

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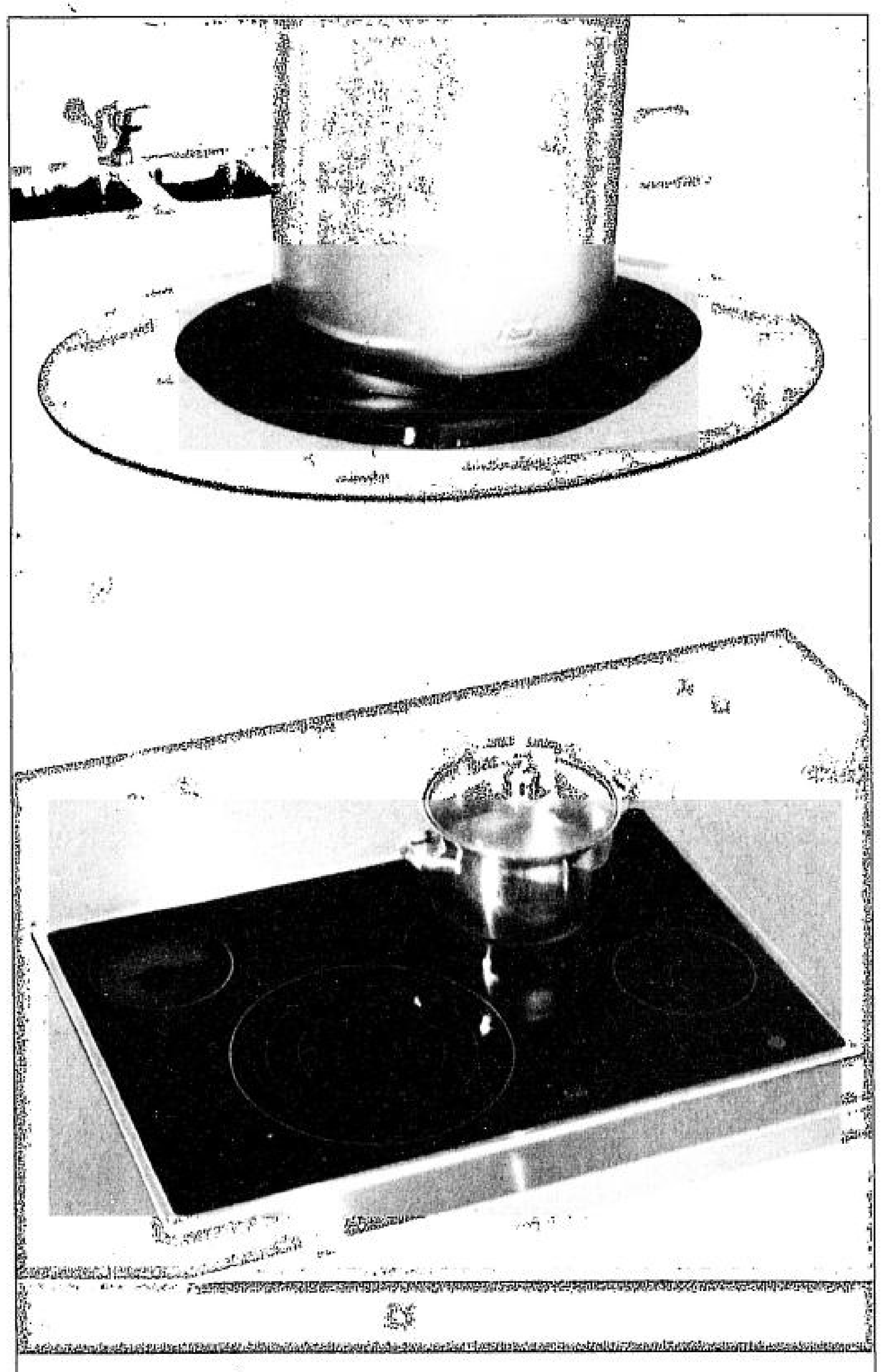
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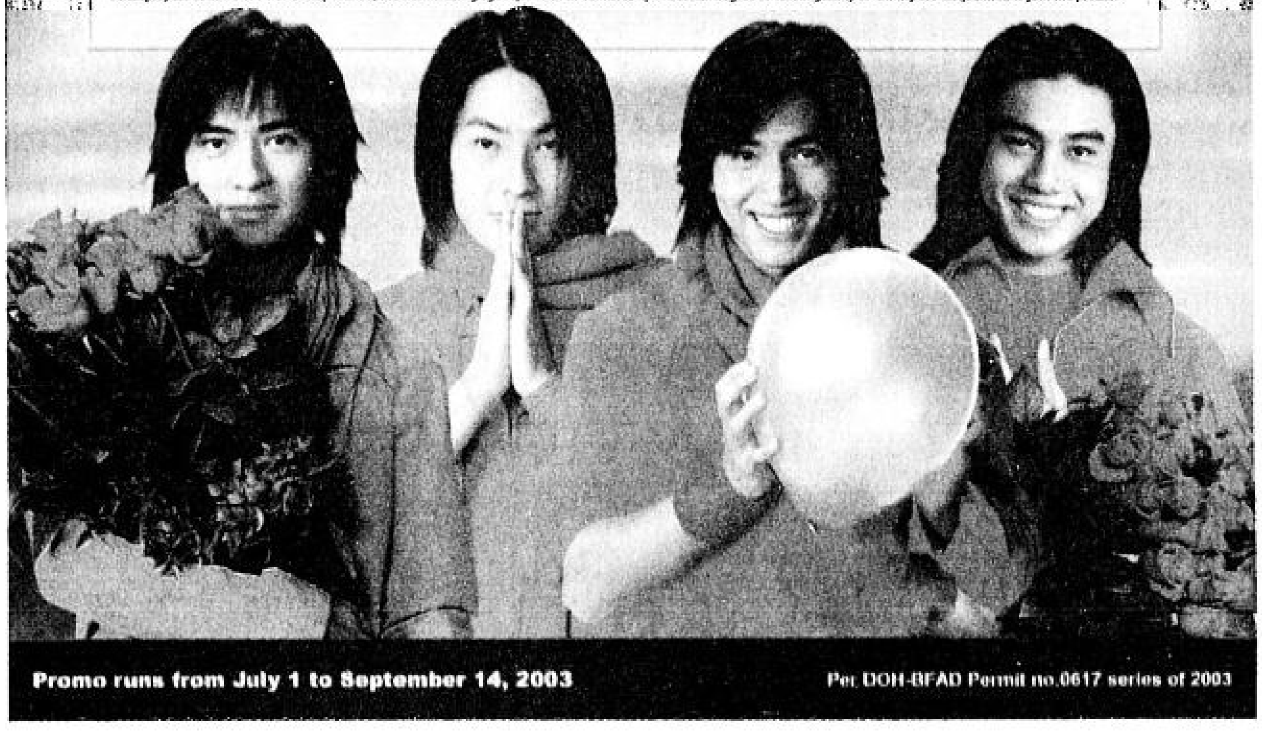
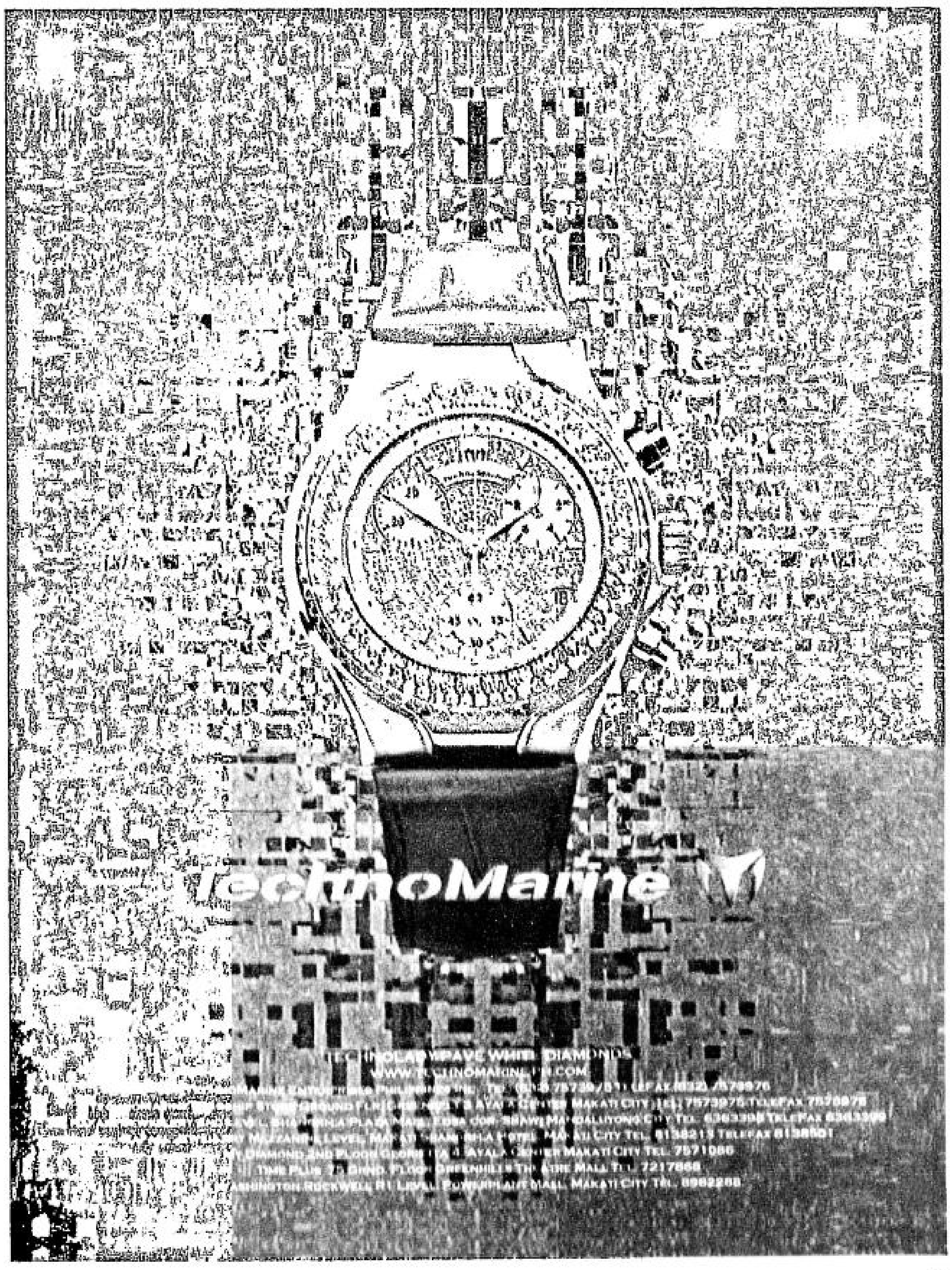
Regent's "F4 Meteor in Barcelona Fever" Promo Mechanics (Nationwide Raffle Promo)

1.This promo is open to all buyers of Regent Cakes & Layer Cakes from July 1 to September 1, 2003 in the entire Luzon. For Visayas & Mindanao region, participants can send their entries from July 14 until September 14, 2003.
2.Participants has to collect five wrappers (assorted or similar flavors) of Regent Cakes or Layer Cakes. They can send their entries in a white envelope, write their complete name, address, contact numbers and signature in a piece of paper and send it to:
(Luzon) Regent's "F4 Meteor in Barcelona Fever" c/o "Story Land" RPN 9 Capitol Hills, Quezon City or REGENT FOODS CORPORATION #80 Elisco Road, Bo. Kalawaan Sur, Pasig City
(Visayas) ABS-CBN Cebu (TV-3) North Road, Jagobiao, Mandaue City (Mindanao) ABS-CBN Cagayan de Oro (TV-2) Greenhills Road, Bulua, Cagayan de Oro City
3.Moreover, residents of NCR can drop their entries at drop boxes located at "Story Land" in Upper Ground of SM Southmall (Las Pinas) and 3rd Level of SM Fairview.
4.Twenty winners shall be drawn in each region every week (20 for Luzon, 20 for Visayas, 20 for Mindanao; to a total of 60 winners). For Luzon area, the draw shall be held live telecast every Sunday (9AM) at RPN 9's "Story Land" in the presence of a DOH-BFAD representative (address stated above).
Schedule of draws for Luzon are as follows: July 20 & 27, August 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31, September 7, 14 & 21
5.For Visayas & Mindanao, draws shall be held simultaneously (live telecast) every Saturdays at 11 AM in the following ABS-CBN noontime shows (listed below) in the presence of a DOH-BFAD representative also. The schedule of draws for these two regions (live telecast) are as follows : August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 September 6, 13 and 20
(for Visayas winners): "Sabado na Gyud" (Sat/11AM) ABS-CBN Cebu (TV-3) North Road, Jagobiao, Mandaue City
(for Mindanao winners) "Tsada" (Sat/11AM) ABS-CBN Cagayan de Oro (TV-2) Greenhills Road, Bulua, Cagayan de Oro City
6.Deadline of submission of entries shall be one day before every weekly draw. Every Saturdays, 6PM for Luzon area; until September 1, 6PM for the final draw. Every Fridays, 6PM and September 14, 6PM for the final draw in Visayas & Mindanao area.
7.Non-winning entries can still be raffled off on the following weeks.
8.Prizes are the following : "F4 Meteor in Barcelona" Photo Compilation Book
9.Winners shall be notified by telephone & registered mail.
10.Winners in Luzon area shall have their prizes mailed by Regent Foods Corporation.
11.For Visayas & Mindanao winners, they can claim their prizes at the ABS-CBN stations nearest them (stated below). They just have to present two valid IDs.
12.Nevertheless, if their location is much too distant from any ABS-CBN stations, REGENT FOOD Corporation shall willingly send their prizes through mail. They just have to notify either ABS-CBN Cebu or Cagayan de Oro office. The following are the lists of ABS-CBN provincial stations where winners can also claim their prizes:
• (Visayas) ABS-CBN Bacolod (TV-4) Lacson Street, Mandalagan, Bacolod City • ABS-CBN Iloilo (TV-10) Luna Street, La Paz, Iloilo City • ABS-CBN Cebu (TV-3) North Road, Jagobiao, Mandaue City • (Mindanao) ABS-CBN Cagayan de Oro (TV-2) Greenhills Road, Bulua, Cagayan de Oro City or ABS-CBN Davao (TV-4) Shrine Hills, Matina, Davao City •
13.Prizes unclaimed (in Visayas & Mindanao) for 60 days shall be forfeited with prior approval from DOH-BFAD.
14.Employees of REGENT FOODS Corporation, their advertising agency and their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified to join the promo.


Promo runs from July 1 to September 14, 2003
Per DOH-BFAD Permit no.0617 series of 2003



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LIFESTYLE Arts & Design

Pinoy play comes full circle in Avignon

Story on page F2

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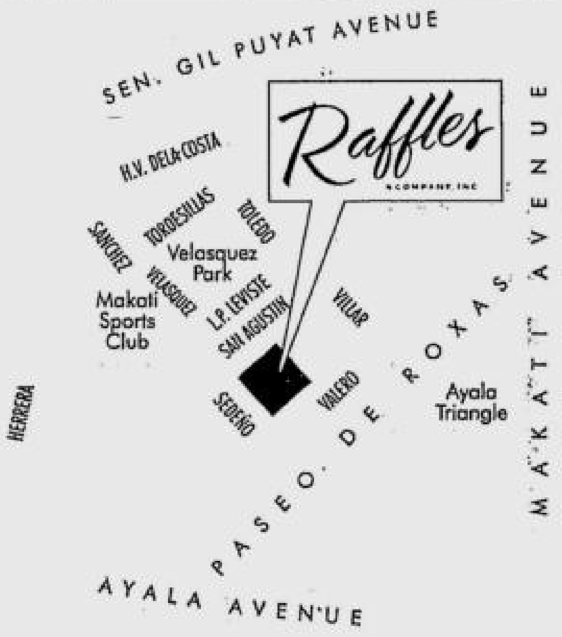

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Pinoy play comes full circle in Avignon

Text by Cora Llamas
Photos by Betoy Johnson

IN SELECTING a Filipino play for the Avignon Off-Festival this month, the French embassy's cultural attaché clearly wanted original material that would represent in theatrical form the Pinoy heart and soul. That's one reason there will be no subtitles for the 23 scheduled performances of Dulaang Talyer's "Bilog" during the month-long event which is part of the summer arts celebration in the south of France.

Playwright Nic Pichay shrugs off possible linguistic difficulties that some one million people from 20 countries might encounter. The Avignon event, which started with 71 theatrical companies in 1982, now averages 700 productions, including theater, dance, music, poetry and mime, in 130 locations, during the month-long event.

There will be the prerequisite introduction to the play, but Pichay points out, "The Japanese Noh has no translation but people appreciate it anyway. Besides, [the situation] presents us a challenge. We do have to stand by our work and let the audience find something interesting in it, enough for them to go through the language barrier."

But then again, "Bilog," now in its fourth revival since 1995, has earned a reputation for pushing the boundaries and provoking its viewers to get into the experience. Despite receiving critical acclaim, the play's audience is often divided into admirers who achieve deeper understanding after multiple viewings, and confused viewers who complain: "I simply don't understand it!"

The play's story seems simple enough. "Bilog" revolves around the romantic and emotional entanglements of a bunch of yuppies who, though unrelated and distant, find their lives intertwined as they wrestle with their sordid affairs.

Riding a roller-coaster romance is the artist Armand whose sister Rose marries his best friend Jacob, a closet gay who sees the marriage as the nearest he could get to his secret love. Rose, dumped by the playboy Anthony, carries a child that Jacob eventually adopts.

The story is also about a street urchin who achieves the Pinoy dream of winning in the lotto and buys one of Armand's old properties. It appears that Armand's old stomping ground is connected to the old lady Deska who helped the street urchin win his millions.

Not the usual soap

It may sound like your average convoluted television soap or film melodrama, but the intertwining stories are told against the backdrop of the age-old romance between the Panay deities Tungkung-Langit and Alunsina. Heaven and Earth collide within a tapestry of jazz ballet, surreal visuals, and a haunting mix of pop and operatic music.

All these art forms, blended with teasing seduction by director Paul Morales, draw their thematic strength from contemporary events and mythology. The all-too-familiar smoky joints in Malate, the noisy bars on Timog, and an old, crumbling house in Manila intersect with a transcendent conjugal squabble in the heavens.

Pichay says the play is intentionally structured to be "very non-linear."

He says: "You have to step back and watch again to appreciate. We did not want the audience to be spoon-fed into getting one story."

After a pause, he adds, "The story doesn't matter. It is the here and now of the story being dramatized that is important before the audience moves on to another image."

The play mirrors one of humanity's timeless, persistent and perhaps irresolvable quests.

"The play is saying that it doesn't matter if you're gay or straight—everyone is in a quest for love. This longing and searching are part of our continuing need to create," Pichay says. "In the Panay mythology, the deities Tungkung-Langit and Alunsina created the universe only after they started fighting, not when they were happy together in their comfort zone. We picked up on the ironies and added [our own spin]. Alunsina soon realizes that if she rejoins Tungkung-Langit, all creation might go back into entropy.

Part of the universe

"The play is saying that if we find love and love back in equal measure, then we will be part of the universe because *hindi na natin kailangan ang* [materialism.] Ironic *na hinahanap natin ang* love *natin, tapos hindi natin makuha,* and *'pag makuha na natin, nag-e-*escape *sila.*"

The slim thread that joins the heartaches of the Panay deities and Manila mortals is the relationship between the writer Lore and his wife Tess, two other characters in the play.

Writing about the Panay mythology, Lore's research gets so deep that the lines between reality and imagination blur. He becomes so involved in the deities' plight that he starts acting out the part of Tungkung-Langit in real life, and forces Alunsina-like reactions from Tess.

Is this another case of life imitating art, or are Lore and Tess the reincarnations of the gods who fled into the bowels of the earth eons ago and are now emerging from the underground?

Morales provides the connection: "Any discussion of romantic love should and would entail going into the spiritual dimension. What is the myth but a metaphor for the feeling of incompleteness in the modern world? All our characters are modern yuppies from Quiapo and Malate—yet they feel they are part of something bigger, a bigger energy that unites and divides them.

"All the male characters are a shadow of the many aspects of Tungkong-Langit and all the females are different personifications of Alunsina."

The premise may be as mind-bending as Morales' fusion of postmodern and ethnic dance, cinema-like visuals, and the singing of soprano Cynthia Guico and tenor Nazar Salcedo.

"We are being obtuse," Pichay laughingly admits. "You have, on one level, two gods who started creating a world that they still abide in, and then they descend to that world because they are looking for each other on our level."

While "Bilog" does end in a genuine resolution, its creators keep going back to the importance of every scene at the precise moment that the viewer is watching. The quest and the climax hope to answer those eternal questions of origin and destiny, while bringing home the more painful realities of love and disappointment.

"In writing and rehearsing the play, there was one good reason we brought in the myth of the gods," Pichay says. "We figured that everyone had a god in themselves, and we are all reflections in a circle."

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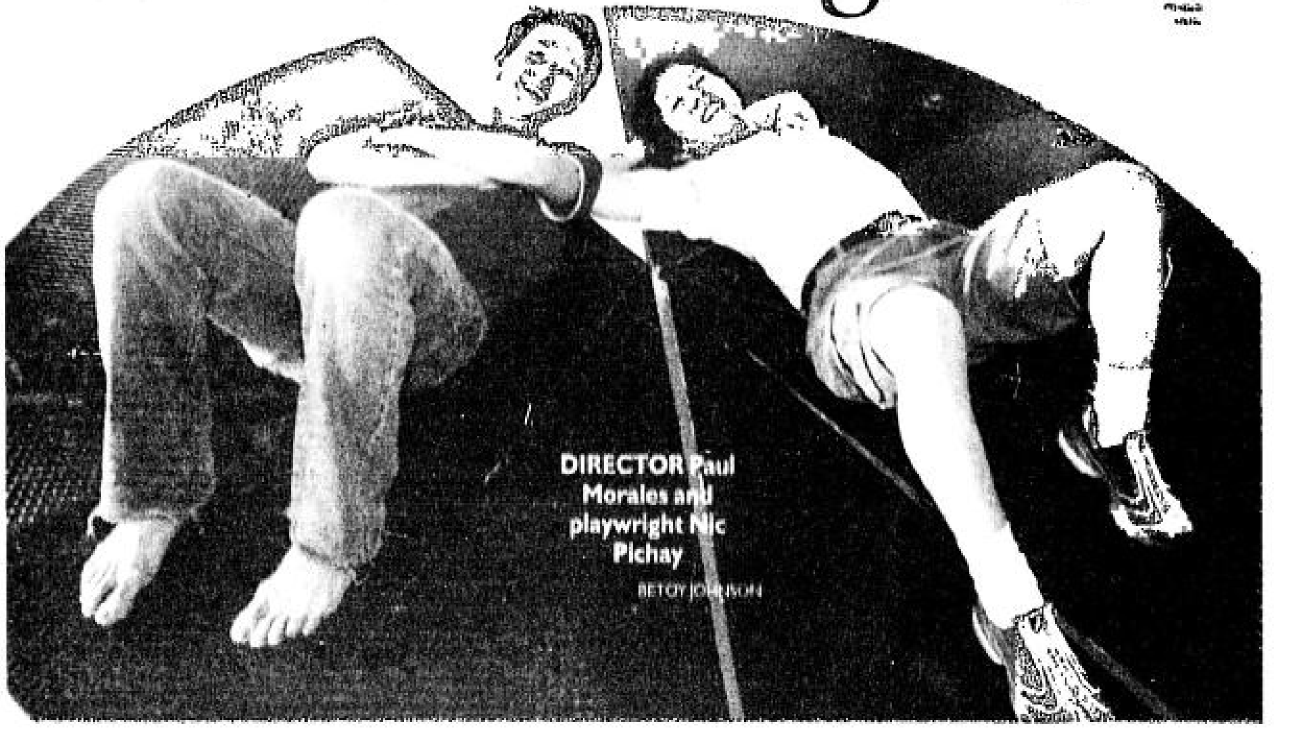

DIRECTOR Paul Morales and playwright Nic Pichay

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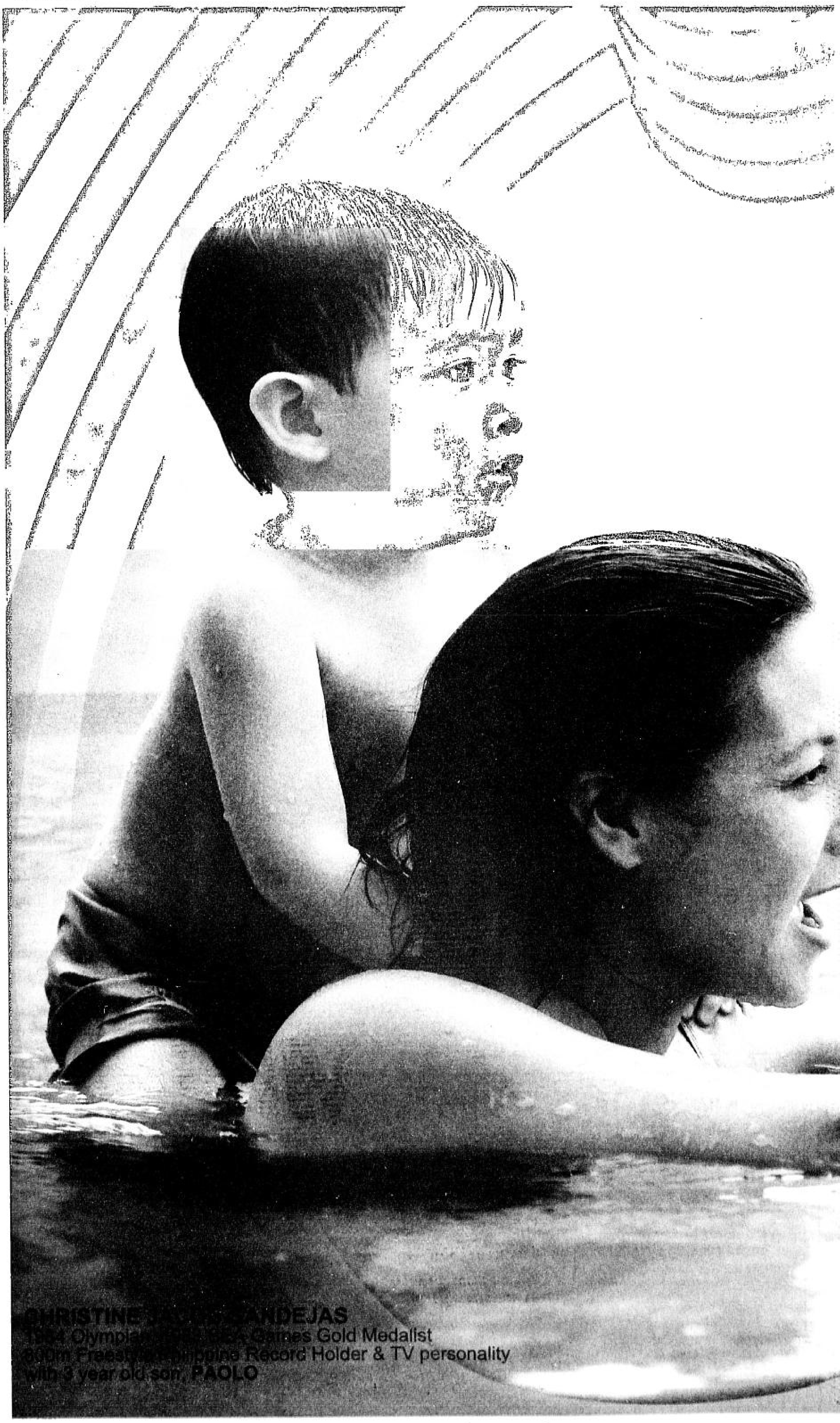

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ON THE 432nd anniversary of Manila, the City Hall gave the Patnubay ng Sining at Kalinangan Awards. Photo shows the honorees Ferdinand B. Jose (dance), Rustica Carpio (theater-drama), Celeste Legaspi-Gallardo (music), Napoleon Abueva (Diwa ng Lahi Award), Susan Roces (Natatanging Parangal), Beng Atienza, Mayor Lito Atienza, and Isabel A. Santos (Gawad Gatpuno Antonio J. Villegas Award). Not in photo: Froilan Hong (architecture), Roberto Feleo (sculpture), Jose Tence Ruiz (new art), Alfred Yuson (literature), Gloria Romero (cinema) and Charles Co (painting).

FIL-AM actor Ramon de Ocampo leads the cast of "Magno Rubio."

Obie award-winning play at CCP

MA-YI Theater Company, one of the United States' leading theater groups devoted to presenting new works about the Filipino-American, and Asian-American experience, will present the Obie (Off-Broadway) Award winner "The Romance of Magno Rubio," as part of the Sangandaan 2003 cultural commemoration of a century of Philippine-American relations.

"The Romance of Magno Rubio" is adapted from a story by the late Filipino poet, novelist and blacklisted political activist Carlos Bulosan. It will be staged at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Tanghalang Huseng Batute Theater from July 16-19, 23-26 at 8 p.m. and July 19, 20, 26, and 27 at 3 p.m. Ticket price is P400, with discount for students and senior citizens.

MA-YI actor Jojo Gonzales

Makati Cinemanila premieres 'City of God'

WELCOME to the world's most notorious slum: Rio de Janeiro's "Cidade de Deus" (City of God) housing project, a place that combat photographers fear to tread, where police rarely go, and residents are lucky if they live to the age of 20.

Named after the infamous location, the movie tells the true story of two young men who grew up there from the late 1960s through the early '80s.

The latest film by world-renowned director Fernando Meirelles, "City of God" was Brazil's official entry to the 75th Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film. It was nominated for a Golden Globe and was part of the official selection at the Cannes International Film Festival 2002.

The Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival brings the groundbreaking film to the Philippines for the first time at the 5th Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival on Aug. 7 to 24 at the Greenbelt Cinemas, Makati.

The Makati Cinemanila is an annual project of the City of Makati under Mayor Jejomar C. Binay and the Independent Cinema Association of the Philippines founded by Amable "Tikoy" Aguiluz VI.

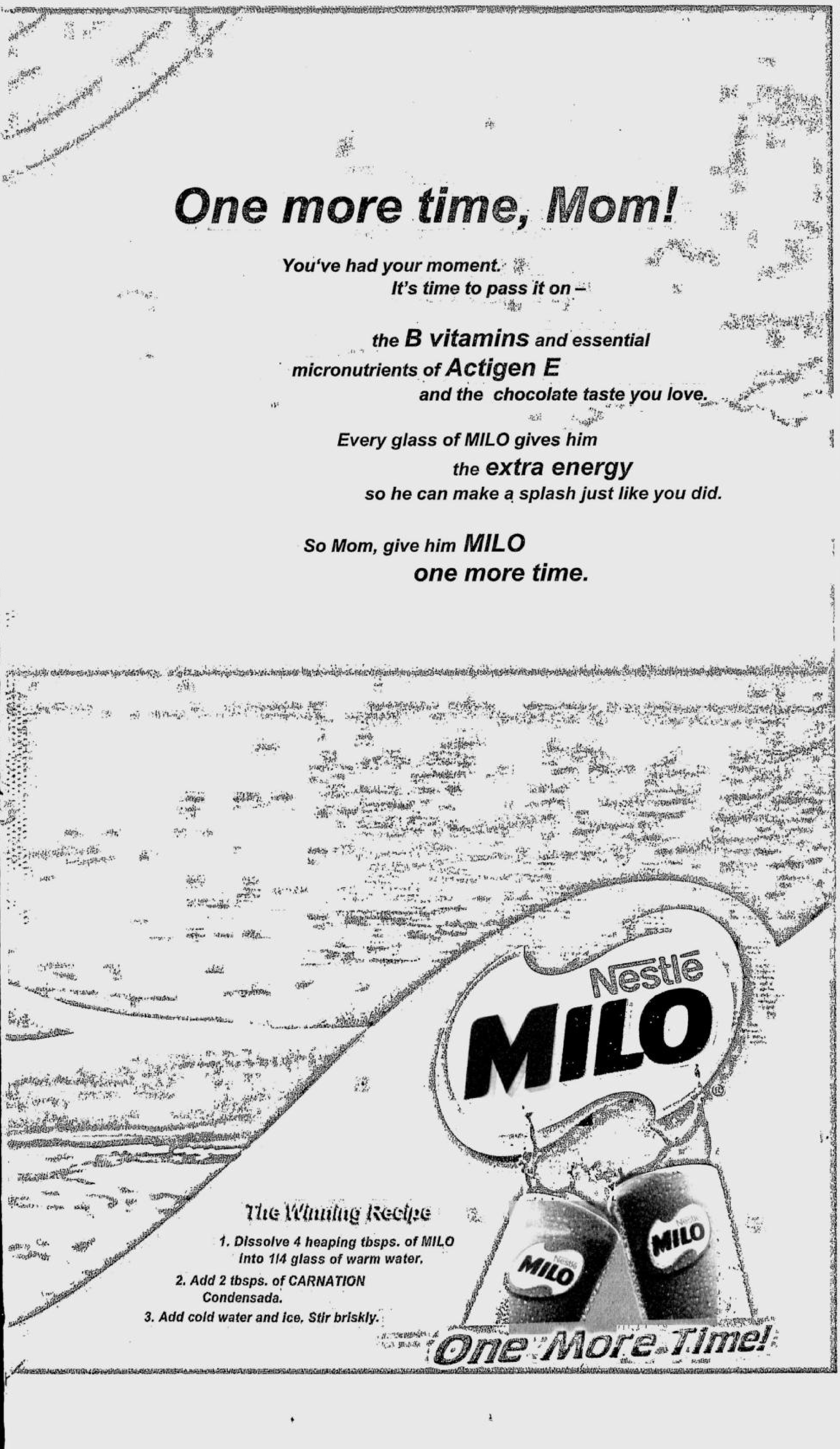
New Ateneo books at academic bookfair

LITERARY critic and historian Soledad S. Reyes weaves together the pieces of a Tagalog fictionist's life in "Rosario de Guzman Lingat (1924-1997): The Burden of Self and History."

Lingat produced a steady stream of short stories, essays, novels and *komiks* stories that endeared her to a loyal reading public in the 1960s and 1970s.

Among Lingat's works that have been published by the Ateneo de Manila University Press, are: "Ang Balabal ng Diyos/Silid ng Makasalanan," with an introduction by Reyes, "Kung Wala na ang Tag-araw/Ano Ngayon, Ricky?", with an introduction by Mario Francisco, S.J., and "Si Juan: Beterano at Iba Pang Kuwento," with an introduction by Reyes.

These and other Ateneo Press titles will be available at discounted prices at the 7th Philippine Academic Bookfair, on July 14-18, at the UP Bahay ng Alumni. Call (02)426-5984. E-mail unipress@alumni.edu.ph



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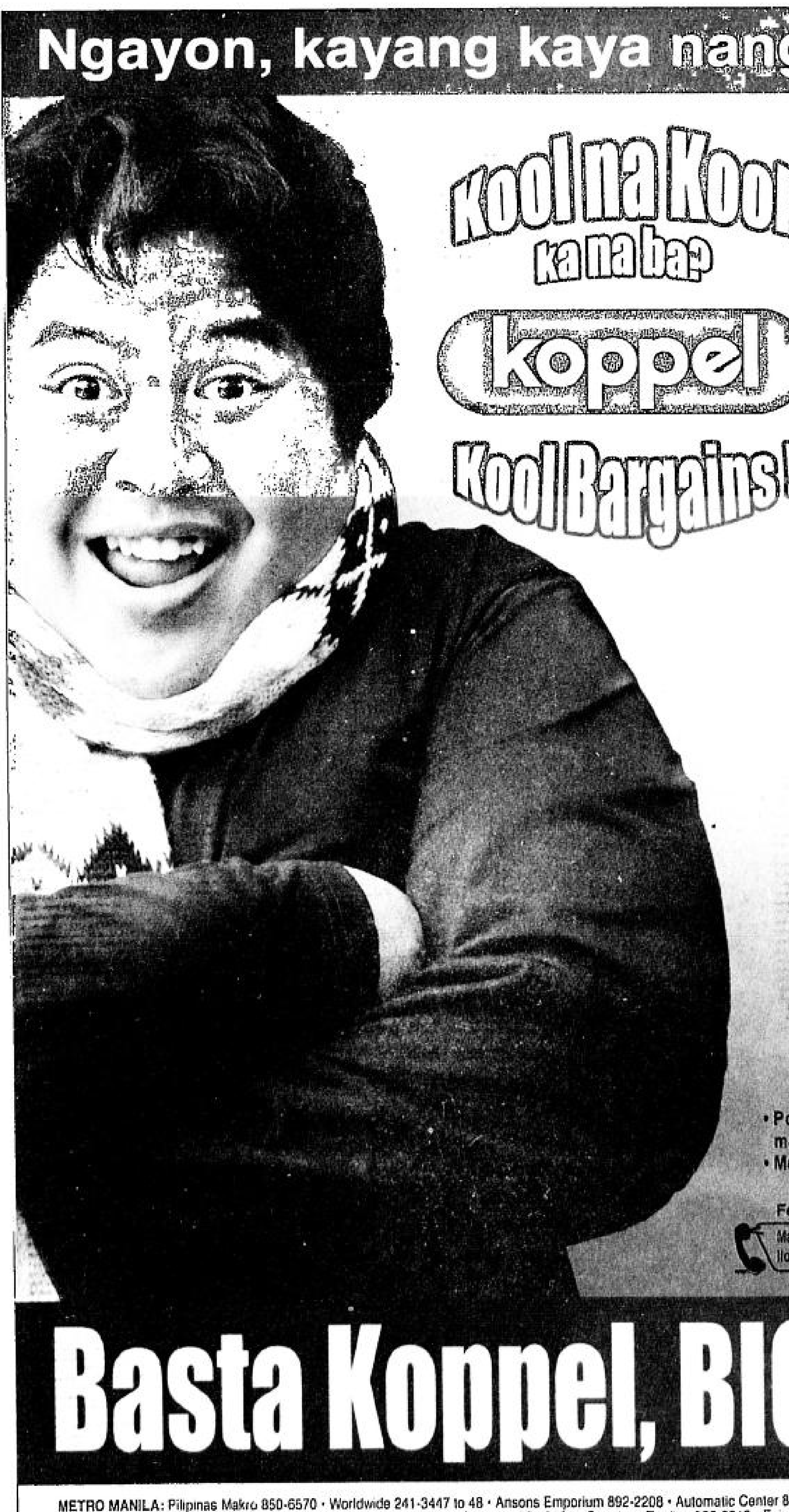
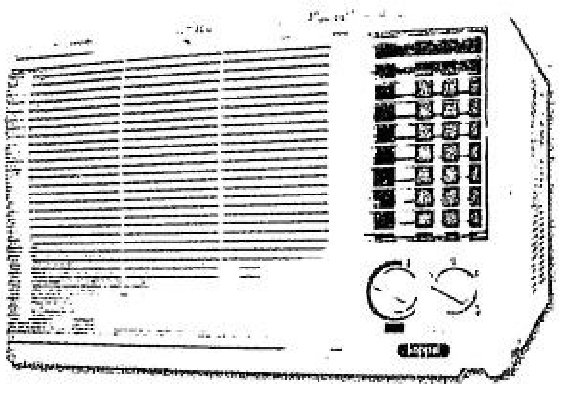
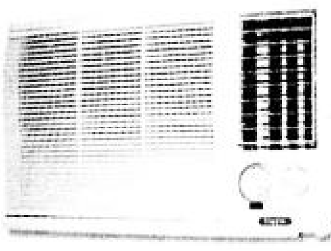
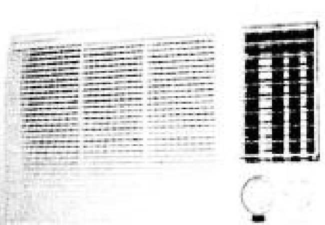




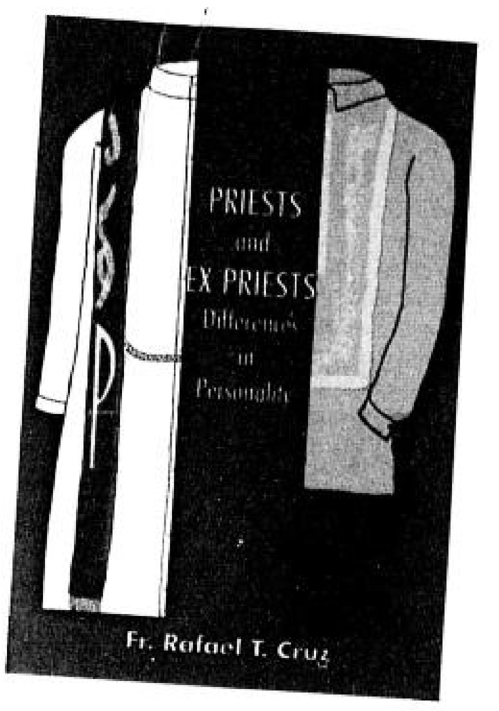




Some answers and comfort to a Church in trouble

"Priests and Ex-Priests: Differences in Personality" and "Go and Preach"
By Fr. Rafael T. Cruz

By Eldric Paul Peredo
Contributor



REVIEW

WHEN was the last time you heard Mass in a Catholic church, and the priest's sermon was about the fidelity of priests to their ministry and vocation?

Probably yesterday, what with all the sex scandals rocking the centuries-old institution. You have deacons, priests, and of course, bishops—all caught off guard by the spotlight turned on them, with a small minority (for definitely not all priests are bad) ending up laicized or exiled to some foreign country where they can just be part of the faceless crowd.

One is likely to ask where the Church is headed. There are two books that attempt a suggestion, if not an answer to that.

In "Priests and Ex-Priests: Differences in Personality," Fr. Rafael T. Cruz tries to explain the phenomenon of priests leaving the ministry. An academic thesis turned into a book, the main premise of the work is that priests who stay in the ministry and those who leave it are affected by three factors: autonomy, narcissism, and self-esteem.

A Psychology Ph.D. holder, Fr. Cruz says that a positive or negative impact of these three factors could decisively predict who among our priests are apt to keep the clerical garb, or predisposed to shed it.

Interesting. Except for some considerations.

Noticeable is the author's outright hypothetical declaration that the ex-priests will have greater autonomy, narcissism, and self-esteem than their faithful counterparts. This raises a bit of doubt as to the impartiality of the study.

> Depending on their notions of autonomy, narcissism and self-esteem, priests will either cleave to or break their vow of celibacy

As to content, Cruz gathered a number of priests who are still active ministers (meaning they haven't left the priesthood yet), and another from the group of the laicized (priests reduced to the status of the lay people).

For the study, he cites the personal reasons the priests in each group opted to stay or leave, and here we find nothing new. We have the usual roster: love of God and the ministry, among others, for the active priests, and marriage, scandal, unhappiness, etc. for the other group.

However, Cruz argues the interplay of the abovementioned factors and how each priest deals with them that ultimately decide who'll stay and who'll go.

Which leads us to the second point: the presentation is not very effective. More effort could have been exerted at transforming the work into something more digestible by common readers. Well, yes, it is a work of psychology, but that alone does not suffice as an excuse for its format, which seems to have been directed at a thesis panel.

An ordinary reader wanting to be better enlightened regarding issues and situations which affect his pastors will have trouble interpreting the computations and tables, and how they all come together to produce the conclusion.

But although the book does not directly answer why errant priests are behaving the way they do, it gives us a workable theory.

Good homilist

Meanwhile, "Go and Preach," also by Cruz, collects the homilies he delivered for a whole year, beginning from the first Sunday of Advent, the first season in the liturgical year. Okay, you say. I don't blame you, knowing how books of this sort are considered preachy and boring.

But this priest can compose a homily. He makes you remember your own pastor in the church you go to, unable to express himself in a more effective manner, and thus unable to keep you awake.

There are several types of effective homilists. One is just plain effective; through his sheer wit and intelligence, the people listen, and the message is delivered. Another would be the one who needs to break the ice, through funny anecdotes interspersed with explanations of the gospel. Cruz is one such homilist.

His homilies are simple and easy to understand, and this owes to the fact that he uses very human examples, and is good at it. Other priests are not as lucky. They try, but wit and humor is a blessing given to some, not to all.

A light read, the second book tells us that despite countless scandals, and no matter how grave they are, the Catholic Church still stands. Despite the dire issues, here is a book that pictures the normalcy in a parish, with a priest delivering his homilies, even treating the very scandals in the Church with humor at some point.

The books seem to say that the Catholic Church is standing, sturdy and confident, despite all. While "Priests and Ex-Priests" suggests an explanation of why priests quit, "Go and Preach" says, hey, we're still here, still operating, still business as usual, thank you.

Take it from a church that boasts of a history that goes all the way back to the man Jesus, and that has survived 2,000 years, no less.

"Priests and Ex-Priests" and "Go and Preach" are available at the St. Paul's Diffusion Store on the corner of Bagtikan Rd. and St. Paul's Road in San Antonio, Makati. Also call 931-2888.